The Initiative in Global Development
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Global Development is a topic that crosses disciplinary boundaries and touches every part of the University. The issues of poverty, social justice, shelter, food security, and infrastructure development are only a few of the challenges that require multiple perspectives to develop innovative and sustainable solutions. The traditional perspective of dividing these challenges along disciplinary lines is failing to produce the sustainable innovations that are necessary to develop the cross-sector and transformational solutions that are required to serve diverse populations and problems. Rather, what is required is a bold initiative to focus broad intellectual resources in an integrated educational and research community that can provide a markedly different and effective approach to educating the next generation of global citizens as well as generating evolutionary solutions to global challenges.

The University of Colorado is in a unique position to leverage a multidisciplinary community that is dedicated to bringing individual expertise together to form a campus focus in international and domestic development.

This overall goal incorporates objectives in community building, education, research, practical solution generation and outreach as follows:

- **Community Building** – Bring together interdisciplinary perspectives on global issues to develop an integrated approach to addressing systemic underdevelopment.
- **Education** – Develop a multidisciplinary, campus-wide initiative that leverages the various certificate and degree programs in global development to create a connected suite of academic options for student at all levels.
- **Research** – Coalesce a network of domain experts throughout the university community to generate comprehensive and synergistic research initiatives with high impact and funding potential.
- **Solution Generation** – Focus on creating and evaluating cohesive development strategies that move research into informed practice and sustainable solutions.
- **Outreach** – Create a clearinghouse for information sharing to the larger development community, including tutorials, evidence-based project reviews, and expert speakers series. The outreach component of this initiative is intended to reach in-country practitioners and development professionals, and may provide funding opportunities.

**Building on Strength**
The concept to establish a campus initiative on Global Development is based on existing strengths within the University of Colorado. Several examples include the Mortenson Center for Engineering in Developing Communities, the Center for Environmental Sustainability, the ATLAS Institute, the Center for Values and Social Policy, the Institute of Behavioral Science’s Environment and Society Program, the Center for Energy & Environment Security and individual faculty’s research and instruction efforts.

**The Global Development Working Group**
Putting in place a bold initiative within a university requires a community of scholars who are committed to achieving solutions and overcoming traditional institutional barriers and perspectives. The **Global Development Working Group** is that community at the University of Colorado Boulder. The Global group represents a grassroots effort to bring together a multidisciplinary group of individuals with experience in multiple aspects of the global development field. The Global group is currently comprised of 40 faculty members representing each of the Colleges and Schools on campus. This unique network has evolved with a single purpose – to position the University of Colorado as a thought leader in the field of Global Development and to provide its students with a unique educational opportunity to become leaders in the global community. During exploratory meetings in December 2012 and January 2013, attendees identified additional potential partners on campus and suggested that the group include four subgroups with distinct tasks as described in the *Immediate Actions* section below.
Immediate Actions
The Global group is developing the foundation for the campus focus on Global Development by coordinating a four-part plan to coalesce the campus effort as follows:

- Educational Initiative – As a first-step, the Global group is developing a campus-wide certificate proposal in global development studies.
- Research Network – In an effort to transform the network into a cohesive research network, the Global group is forming a seminar series centered on the work represented within the network.
- Lecture Series – A central focus of the Global group is to bring awareness of global challenges and the campus efforts to address these challenges to the broad campus community. As such, both an internal and external lecture series are being explored to inspire and inform the community.
- Initiative Proposal – The final element of the initial plan is the development of a formal campus proposal to establish Global Development as a campus initiative.

An Integrated Timeline
The Global group has developed a three-year timeline to build the Global Development concept from a grassroots effort to a sustainable initiative. As shown below, the timeline addresses the need to coordinate the people, education initiatives, research network, and solution focus into a comprehensive effort that results in the achievement of the overarching goal. The timeline moves from Collaboration to Coordination to Integration over a three-year vision. This is a bold vision, but one that this distinguished group is poised to accomplish.