As the most successful university-based social enterprise accelerator, Miller Center is uniquely positioned to provide value to our social enterprise partners and to advance the mission of Santa Clara University.

In March, Miller Center's Global Social Benefit Fellowship received the prestigious Cordes Innovation Award in Academic Student Learning from AshokaU – the higher education initiative of Ashoka, the world’s largest network of social entrepreneurs – and the Cordes Foundation. This award recognizes leading models of social entrepreneurship in education. When I received the award, I could not help but recall all the hard work of our 75 Fellows! And the active support they received from SCU faculty and staff.

Seeking to take full advantage of the resources of our university, last year we created the Miller Center Summer Chair, and awarded it to Dr. Leslie Gray of the Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences to conduct research on the uses of solar lanterns sold by Solar Sister (GSBI 2011). As a result, Miller Center this month published “Turning On The Lights: Transcending Energy Poverty Through the Power of Women Entrepreneurs.” Leslie, along with Fellows Alaina Boyle and Victoria Yu, surveyed 257 solar lantern customers.
and entrepreneurs in rural Tanzania. This is the largest study of solar lantern customers yet conducted, and demonstrates that solar lanterns’ effects on end users are far more comprehensive and far-reaching than merely providing light. This white paper, building upon three prior years of action research with Solar Sister, documents the health, education, and economic impact of these technologies, but also illuminates how they can foster women’s economic empowerment.

I am pleased to announce a new cohort of Global Social Benefit Fellows. This year we have 18 fellows working on eight action research projects for our GSBI alumni. Four of these are for 2016 Accelerator enterprises, and two for members of the first GE healthymagination cohort, which just completed their GSBI program in February. Many GSBI mentors are sharing their experience with fellows, to prepare them to accompany the entrepreneurs. Two of these projects will advance our understanding of the replication of social enterprise business models. You can find the cornucopia of last year’s research projects on the Fellowship portfolio page.

Last Fall we hired Dr. Michelle Stecker to enhance our social enterprise course offerings, and to expand the number of action research opportunities. She is leading the pilot of the Social Enterprise Practicum, with teams of two students working in both India and Rwanda.

To learn more about how Miller Center is building strong ties between Santa Clara University and the social enterprise movement, please join us for the Research With a Mission Open House and Expo, Wednesday, May 24, 2:30-4:30 p.m. at the Locatelli Center. I hope to see you there!

All the best,

Keith Douglass Warner, OFM, PhD

Director of Education and Action Research
The Ripple Effect of Replication
by Neal Harrison

How do we define replication at Miller Center? An analogy for social enterprise replication is to imagine a rock thrown into a pond. Where the rock hits the water is the splash of a pioneering social enterprise technology or business model tackling a social problem. The growth of the original social enterprise or the adoption of the enterprise model are the ripples in the water. Replication, to us, supports the ripple-effect by making these innovations diffuse further and more quickly. This is where we see huge development opportunities for the social impact sector.

Miller Center’s Replication Initiative was launched in 2016. Over the past year, we approached the problem of how to replicate tested and proven business models through a series of experiments. We wanted to better understand the challenges of replication and where to best position our future work... Read More

Neal Harrison is Associate Director of Replication, GSBI. Neal has provided training to agribusinesses throughout Ghana, and worked on major post-Katrina development projects in New Orleans. He holds an MSc in Global Economics and Politics from the London School of Economics.
Read All About It...

Take a Look at the New GSBF Research Projects

Solar Sister: Turning On The Lights

Read More

Research With a Mission:
Open House & Expo
Wednesday, May 24th, 2017
2:30 - 4:40 p.m.
Locatelli Center, Santa Clara University

Event Info

GE healthymagination Announcement
Ready to Kickoff?

In partnership with GE healthymagination, Miller Center is offering an impact-generating opportunity for your growing enterprise.

The Kickoff Workshop (July 25-27, 2017), is a 3-day workshop in Johannesburg facilitated by senior members and GE experts.

Read more about the program [here](#)

Apply Now

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In the News...

Thane Kreiner Featured in SciDevNet Article

Thane Kreiner, Executive Director of Miller Center, was quoted in a SciDevNet article about the need to extend technological innovation to rural communities in order to prevent maternal and child deaths in Sub-Saharan Africa... [Read More](#)

Build Change Receives the 2017 Skoll Award for Social...
Entrepreneurship

Awardees’ organizations receive $1.25 million core support investments to scale their work and increase their impact. See what Build Change will do to tackle a global challenge of our time... Read More

The Kenyan Startup Helping Women Farmers Get Fair Prices

Yvette Ondachi, founder of Ojay Greene, and current online cohort, left the corporate world to pursue a startup that links smallholder farmers to rapidly growing urban markets. See why she considers women workers to be pioneers of the future... Read More

World Wide Hearing Announced Winner of $5 Million Google Non-profit Challenge

As one of the winners of Google Canada’s Impact Challenge, World Wide Hearing, GSBI 2014, will receive a $750,000 grant and hands-on support from Google and partners to advance their work... Read More

John Kohler Featured in Devex

John Kohler, Director of Impact Capital at Miller Center, was quoted in a Devex article on funding, the importance of diversifying, and more. Read what John has to say about philanthropy... Read More
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