The Missing Link: Enlisting the Community in Peacebuilding

Margee M. Ensign
President, Dickinson College
In addition to the well-known social issues of illiteracy and immaturity, there is also a concept called "irrationality", which is also an insufficient geographical knowledge.

A survey with random American schoolkids let them guess the population and land area of their country. Not entirely unexpected, but still rather unsettling, the majority chose 1-2 billion and 1200 square miles, respectively.

Even with Asian and European college students, geographical estimates were off by factors of 2-3. This is partly due to the highly distorted nature of the predominantly used mapping projections (such as Mercator).

A particularly extreme example is the worldwide misjudgement of the true size of Africa. This single image tries to embody the masses scale, which is larger than the USA, China, India, Japan and all of Europe...... combined!
AUN-Faculty and Staff from 27 Countries

1. Business and Entrepreneurship
2. Computer Science, Software Engineering and ICT
3. Art and Sciences (Liberal arts)
4. Law - opened 2016
Boko Haram

**Boko** – Hausa for book. **Haram** – Arabic for forbidden. Western education or culture is forbidden.

Led by Mohammed Yusuf until he was killed by security forces in 2009. “Western-style education is mixed with issues that run contrary to our beliefs in Islam” (BBC News, July 31, 2009).

Secular government seen as a corrupt, illegitimate regime. Its adherents are reportedly influenced by the Koranic verse: “Anyone who is not governed by what Allah has revealed is among the transgressors.” The current system is seen as contrary to true Islamic beliefs.

Funding: Strong links with Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), robbing banks, negotiations with the state.
AUN-API Peace and Development

AUN-Adamawa Peace Initiative (AUN-API) established in January 2012—as Boko Haram threat emerged—to ensure that the city and region lived in peace and harmony.

- Focus: vulnerable youth
- Members: Prominent Christian and Muslim leaders, community/NGO leaders
- Peacemakers spread peace, education and development
AUN-API Pathways to Peace through Education

AUN-Adamawa Peace Initiative

Peace Through Employment

Peace Through Literacy, IT and Entrepreneurship

Identify Vulnerable Youth

TELA, Feed and Read, Peace Through Sports

Useful education for the common good since 1783
Working Assumptions

✓ Religion is an instrument of peace
✓ Youth must be positively engaged
✓ Education is the foundation of a society
✓ Women are the center of development
Technology Enhanced Learning for All (TELA)

- 20,000 listened to radio show written and produced by AUN faculty members and students

- 2,000 learners on tablet computers
  - Apps in Hausa and Fulfulde, written by AUN students

- Literacy and numeracy soared
So Eager to Learn
Waste to Wealth
## AUN-API Relief Efforts: October 2016

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<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
<th>IDPs</th>
<th>Rice (25Kg)</th>
<th>Maize (20Kg)</th>
<th>Noodles</th>
<th>Mats</th>
<th>V. Oil</th>
<th>Salt</th>
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St. Theresa’s Catholic Cathedral
St. Theresa’s Catholic Cathedral - Interfaith Efforts
AUN Students

Useful education for the common good since 1783
Feed and Read
Feed and Read

Useful education for the common good since 1783
Peace Through Sports

Useful education for the common good since 1783
Peace Through Sports

• Unity teams: Muslim and Christian youth playing together

• Peace and entrepreneurship curriculums

• More than 400 football and volleyball teams

• 32,000 participated 2014-16
“It’s either you or Boko Haram. There’s nothing else here for us.”
Dickinson College: Peacebuilding-Partnership with U.S. Army War College

Dickinson College is committed to advancing the field of peacekeeping and disaster and complex emergency prevention, response and recovery with a center for excellence, the **Institute for International Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Response**, which will include the:

1) Graduate Program in Human Security
2) Center for International, Interagency and NGO Research and Management
3) Bridge Program
College and University Partnerships: Building Resilience

America’s 4300 college and universities have a key role to play in building peaceful and resilient communities—both domestically and internationally.

Greater Carlisle-Dickinson Project

- Workforce development asset map, climate change and hazard mitigation planning in Cumberland country, food access in Carlisle.

Carlisle Mosaic

- Carlisle might become a more resilient and sustainable community. Demographic, economic and technological changes, examining how public policy, social innovation and systems thinking can help resolve problems of poverty, affordable housing, food security, access to health care, environmental degradation, and climate change.
Summary

✓ Education is the foundation of society.

✓ University-led development initiatives can change societies, expand educational opportunities and build resilience.

✓ Colleges and universities have a key role to play in understanding and building resilient communities.
Education as the Force for Peace and Resilience

“Education gives me the wings to fly,
the power to fight
and the voice to speak.”