



Investing in Education – International

The Elfenworks Foundation, together with international university partners, continues to foster student success, primarily through scholarship competitions.

2017 - Ukraine

In 2017, The Elfenworks Foundation partnered with Kiev Taras Shevchenko National University and Elfenworks Productions LLC to offer an Elfenworks Student Competition on Social Entrepreneurship. The prize was awarded April 25, 2017 in Kiev to Vitaly Oleksyuk. The scholarship competition took place at the Institute of International Relations of the Kiev Taras Shevchenko National University in the academic year of 2016-2017. The jury, led by Professor Aleksiy Stupnytsky, included: Igor Golubiy, Professor, Department of International Business; Nikolay Gnatovsky, Professor, Department of International Law; Svetlana Andrushchenko, Professor, Department of International Relations; and Ksenya Smyrnova, Professor, Department of European Law, assessed applicants for 1) knowledge of social entrepreneurship; 2) analysis of the state of the field, in Ukraine; 3) Personal experience; and 4) Vision. From the initial pool of 135 participants, 24 were selected for the second, juried phase, from whom four finalists - Anna Kiksheva, Vitaly Oleksyuk, Valeriia Slinko, and Oleksander Yaroshenko - were ultimately chosen. These finalists met with the Foundation team for in-depth discussions. During a ten-day stay in the country, our team also had the opportunity to meet with nonprofit leaders from across the nation, as well as members of the press and university leaders.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for an Elfenworks Center at the university was graced by two adorable children bearing korovai, a traditional bread. The event was led by Dr. Valeriy Kopyyka, Director of the Institute of International Relations. Our CEO was bestowed with an honorary doctorate and the honorary title of Professor at the event, addressed students and faculty, compared the making of this bread to the process of social entrepreneurship. The process requires a vision and involves various special skills, including decoration. As with social entrepreneurship efforts, there will be local variation. The bakers, who work in partnership, don't duplicate each other's work. The process involves feedback, such as knowing if the bread has risen, if the oven is hot enough, and so on. Stay the course until the work is complete, then share in the credit, and the whole community is better for the effort. We look forward to hearing great things from the young social entrepreneurs we met in Kiev.

About Kiev Taras Shevchenko National University: Taras Shevchenko National University, a classic university with a distinct research profile, is the leading contemporary academic and educational hub of Ukraine. The staff at the University have a broad range of formal achievements recognized, such as the State Prize of Ukraine in Science and Technology, as well as awards from the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and branches of the National Academies of Sciences.

Tweets: Student social entrepreneurs inspire @elfenworks team in at #kiev for #inharmonywithhope #entrepreneurship
Kiev innovates with new student social entrepreneurship scholarship @elfenworks for #inharmonywithhope #entrepreneurship
Hashtag Suggestions #socialinnovation #hope #entrepreneurship #socialentrepreneur #change #nonprofit #inspire
#elfenworks #TarasShevchenko #scholarship #kiev #kyev #ukraine



2015 - China - Star of Hope Shines in Beijing

The Elfenworks Foundation, in partnership with Capital University of Economics and Business (Beijing, China) and Elfenworks Productions, LLC, was pleased to offer a competitive “Star of Hope” Scholarship opportunity in 2015. The award aimed to shine a light on the practice, encouraging aspiring young social entrepreneurs. The project, a joint effort to catalyze the nascent field of social entrepreneurship in China and benefit the Chinese people. It was administered through Capital University of Economics and Business' College of Urban Economics and Public Administration, where students had the opportunity to study the methodology we use and foster, in a Chinese Language edition of our CEO's book on the subject (also available in Portuguese, Korean and other languages). The inaugural year recipient, Zhang Tiancheng, has as a goal no less than to cleanse the air of Beijing. During the landmark award event of November 11, 2015, Elfenworks CEO Lauren Speeth hailed the moment as auspicious, and exhorted students, “Why wait for some mythical hero to step in, when you are the one who sees a way to help?” She reminded them that whatever they practice, they will perfect, and if they want a more compassionate world, to practice compassion. And of course, to “never underestimate your ripple.” Professor Xu then expanded on the power of partnership using the metaphor of a firefly: one alone may not be very powerful, but many together will light the darkness. After this, Vice Dean Wang Deqi addressed the crowd in fluent English, hailing this new partnership and the the possibilities for other such partnerships for the greater good. The winning group project, Miao Yi Fang (Traditional Chinese Culture Workshop), was presented with an award. Students, faculty, administration, and the press were all in attendance.

About Capital University of Economics and Business (CUEB): Founded in 1956, Capital University of Business and Economics is the leading municipal university in the city of Beijing. CUEB took its current form in 1995 after the merger of the Beijing College of Economics and the Beijing Institute of Finance and Trade. Over the last 60 years, CUEB has grown into a modern multidisciplinary university with strengths in six major subject areas including economics, management, law, literature and science, and engineering, of which economics and management are its core disciplines. CUEB's department of labor economics is has been accredited as a key national academic program, and is a member one of the Ministry of Education's Exceptional Key Disciplines Project. The departments of applied economics and statistics are both key first-class disciplines in Beijing, having been ranked 12th and 15th respectively among 88 universities, and 5th among finance and economics universities during the 3rd round of appraisal by the Ministry of Education. For the first time, Tilburg University ranked CUEB 9th for publications in top journals among all mainland universities. CUEB itself is considered as a “national education base for ecological civilization”.

Press Coverage Included: China Youth News Article [1], [2] and [3] (this went viral and was covered at [East Day](#), [World People](#), and [Gongyi China](#). Additionally, China Central Television's feature series, “Public Power,” with host Meng Shengnan¹. CRI Round Table - Zhou Heyang Talks with Dr. Lauren Speeth about Social Entrepreneurship².

¹ Online at http://cctvgydll.com/News_View.asp?NewsId=697 and accessed in 2015. No longer at this URL.

² Online at <http://english.cri.cn/4926/2015/11/10/2361s903439.htm> and accessed in 2015. No longer at this URL.



2014 - India - Teaching Social Entrepreneurship

For a number of years, our methodology was taught in Tiruchirappalli, in Tamil Nadu (Southern India) at YWAM Trichy, where there is a small demonstration project in response to India's estimated 40 million widows. India has many areas for enterprising social entrepreneurs to tackle, including: gender, social mobility, pollution, water and groundtable issues, biodiversity concerns, soil degradation, to name just a few. The seventh largest country in the world, India boasts a population of about 1.26b, second only to China. Together, India and China comprise one third of the world's population. The country's most populous urban agglomeration, Delhi, has with 25 million people in 11 districts comprising the world's 6th most populous city, and includes the country's capital, New Delhi.

2012 – Australia - Teaching Social Entrepreneurship

Our CEO's book on our methodology was released in conjunction with a lecture at the Australia National University in Canberra. The event was covered at the university's website, [here](#).

2009 - Brazil - Computer Learning for Families

In Brazil, we worked with a nonprofit that fostered education for the poor, rather than a university. We underwrote the expansion of a computer learning center in São Paulo in partnership with Boys Hope Girls Hope's "Vida Jovem." Brazil, a country of 204.5 million, is the fifth most populous country in the world, occupying almost half of South America. The nation's flag promises order and progress, and the country is rich with opportunity for positive change. Hailed as a "major global player" by the Obama administration while he was in office, Brazil also faces challenges including deforestation and a recession. Brazil could benefit from more active, effective social entrepreneurs, tackling problems and raising hope.

Administrators who are considering getting in touch regarding teaching the Seven Pillars at their institution should remember the acronym F.A.R. (in this way, you'll go far):

- **F = Focus** – Do you have a focus on hope and student-driven change that aligns with our vision? Do you encourage your students to dream big and shoot for the stars, with "big hairy audacious goals?" Is your department a good fit for teaching the Seven Pillar methodology, and can it be easily integrated into your curriculum?
- **A = Acknowledged** – Does your school have a well-respected reputation, with skill as educators, attracting top students, and having staying power?
- **R = Reach** – Have your school and students had historic impact, such as with partnerships such as local nonprofits? How far will your students carry this information? What part of your population will our methods or message touch? Finally (re: non-duplication in our efforts) is your university reaching a group we've already reached, with other partnerships?

We are still open to the potential to bringing our methodology to educators in major cities because, as Dr. Raymond Bakke reminds us, "what the poor need is information and technology transfer. That is what they really need." Moreover, "cities are, in fact, the amplifying speakers in every culture, and it is sound strategy... the ripples will be felt across the countryside." (Bakke. A Biblical Word for an Urban World. 2000. pp.34 & 87).

Students, educators, and administrators, we applaud you. Keep making those great ripples for a brighter tomorrow!