

Full Summary – “Language Teaching in the 21st Century”

When referring to averages, 1 = best/most desirable response, 5 = worst/least desirable response

Under the umbrella title “Language Teaching in the 21st Century,” Dr. Patricia Pashby facilitated a series of seven workshops and ten individual mentoring sessions for faculty teaching English or other language courses in Pakistan as part of AIPS’ Junior Faculty Training and Exchange Program. As exemplified by survey responses, Dr. Pashby’s program was another successful Embassy-funded AIPS program. Surveys were distributed at three separate times – post-program, six months, and 12 months following the end of the program.

Though only five participants responded to the post-program survey sent via email, all of the responses reflected positively on Dr. Patricia Pashby’s program. The material presented proved to be relevant to the participants’ fields and was generally “very informative”; an average of 1.33 was given for the applicability of the workshop to the participants’ professions. The program was particularly effective in exposing the workshop participants to new teaching techniques that could be implemented into their classrooms. Some of the “take-aways” listed by the participants included the following: time management, teaching in an interactive classroom, and use of technology to improve the quality of teaching.

Dr. Pashby scored exceptionally well (all scores of 1) when the participants were asked to rate their overall satisfaction with the program and describe how comfortable they would be contacting Dr. Pashby in the future for professionally-related reasons. One participant noted how Dr. Pashby created a “friendly and comfortable environment” for learning. Additionally, this feedback aligns with one of the main goals of this grant, which has been to build ongoing relationships between the US scholar(s) and Pakistani scholars. With scores of 1 for comfortability, it is anticipated that some of the Pakistani participants will remain in contact with Dr. Pashby in the future for professional reasons. This provides a sustained program in the longer-term and continues the exchange of knowledge between the U.S. and Pakistan.

Six months after the conclusion of the program, survey responses have shown that participants are still spreading the knowledge to others. Thus, this program has extended far beyond the workshop participants. According to the respondents of the six-month survey, the training received from Dr. Pashby’s workshop has been passed on to over 657 students and 40 instructors. Many of the participants continue to discuss the knowledge gained from the workshop with their colleagues:

“Most of the participants are my colleagues and we frequently meet to share ideas with regard to language teaching.”

“We have discussed the relevance of [information learned] through the workshop to the classroom environment and its implementation to pace up the better teaching learning process.”

“We try to implement the said strategies in our graduate classes.”

13 of the 17 respondents indicated that the workshop sparked ideas for future research projects, and, at the time the survey was sent out, nine respondents were working on a new research project all/partly due to the training received from the workshop. Aside from the impact on participants’ career development, respondents also noted that the program has influenced their

curriculum and course development. Most of the respondents answered “a lot” or “a great deal” when asked to measure this impact. One participant explained:

“I’ve started to modify my classroom teaching methods to align them with the modern teaching and learning needs.”

While only three of the respondents have been in contact with Dr. Pashby since the program ended, those three participants gave an average of 1.33 when asked how comfortable they would feel contacting Dr. Pashby for academic-related purposes. Of those who have not been in contact with Dr. Pashby, ten respondents left their email address in order to be reconnected with her. Since nearly all of the respondents either have been in contact with her or have the desire to be reconnected, it is anticipated that this network of Pakistani and US scholars will persist in the future.

One year following the conclusion of Dr. Pashby’s workshop, the program has continued to have an influence on participants and their work. We received four responses to the open-ended, 12-month surveys, and through these responses, the program’s long-term impact is evident.

Following Dr. Pashby’s program, one participant attended Dr. Matthew A. Cook’s AIPS Digital Humanities initiative, which was an extension of discussions that took place in Dr. Pashby’s workshops. This participant used content from both programs to deliver three hands-on workshops and tutorials to their colleagues and other Ph.D. candidates, while also brainstorming with other Digital Humanities (DH) fellows from Pakistan and the US about how to formally introduce a DH forum in Pakistan.

Three respondents indicated that, one year later, they have shared the content with their students and members in their departments. One participant explained:

“I tried to pass on almost all the concepts learnt from the scholars to my students after attending workshops and found very effective.”

Since the end of the program, the network of scholars and students who have been exposed to the content of Dr. Pashby’s workshop has continued to grow.

These comments best reflect the original content from the participants’ surveys. However, due to variances in English language proficiency, grammatical errors and compilation purposes, direct responses have been paraphrased and/or edited for readability. Whenever possible, direct quotations were used and will be marked by quotation marks.