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8.2

Engineering Change: Sustainable Development And Experiential Learning With The Duke Chapter Of Engineers Without Borders

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Launched in 2005, the Duke Chapter of Engineers Without Borders has participated in projects in Indonesia, Uganda, Peru, Bolivia and a planned project in Honduras. Leveraging some of the funding opportunities provided by the newly established DukeEngage program, Duke-EWB has provided students the chance to build a water distribution system in the Andes, rainwater harvesting cisterns in East Africa, and exposed students to water reconstruction issues following the 2004 SE Asia Tsunami. As part of this paper, these case studies are examined with respect to experiential learning in the context of addressing identified water resources issues in the developing world. Lessons learned are examined with respect to water resources education and training future engineers, scientists and policy makers in the multidisciplinary issues facing the global water crisis. Additionally, suggestions for connecting the field experiences with academic courses is explored within the context of immersive learning.