

A JOINT PROJECT DURING JULY 2002 BETWEEN RTR AND CAAS



Friday, MARCH 1, 2002

AS DIRECTOR OF THE PEDAGOGY OF ACTION STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM TO SOUTH AFRICA, I AM WRITING TO EXPRESS MY ENTHUSIASM WITH REGARD TO WORKING WITH ADDI LANG AND THE RETURN TO ROOTS AFRICA PROGRAM. THE PEDAGOGY OF ACTION PROGRAM IS PLEASED TO BE A UPLIFT ENDEAVORS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SUPPORTING THESE ENDEAVORS DURING OUR TIME IN SOUTH AFRICA VIA OUR COLLABORATION AND HIV/AIDS EDUCATION EFFORTS.

THE PEDAGOGY OF ACTION STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM SEEKS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS IN SOUTH AFRICA, WHILE IMPACTING, CHALLENGING, AND ENRICHING THE WORLDVIEW OF UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN STUDENT PARTICIPANTS. THE STUDY ABROAD ACCOMPLISHES THIS GOAL BY HAVING STUDENTS WORK WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS IN BLACK SOUTH AFRICAN TOWNSHIPS TO HELP WITH HIV PREVENTION EDUCATION EFFORTS IN SOUTH AFRICA. THE MODULE OF HIV EDUCATION I DEVELOPED IS DESIGNED TO EDUCATE THE NON-LITERATE, AND TO EMPOWER THEM TO BECOME SECOND-GENERATION TEACHERS AND USE THE MODULE TO TEACH HIV PREVENTION TO THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES. THROUGH THIS TRAINING OF TEACHERS, THE EDUCATION INTERVENTION IS COMPLETELY SUSTAINABLE. THUS THE PROGRAM AIMS TO NOT ONLY GIVE STUDENTS AND MEMBERS OF PARTICIPATING SOUTH AFRICAN TOWNSHIPS AN INVALUABLE EXERCISE IN ACTIVISM, SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, AND AGENCY; BUT ALSO TO LEAVE COMMUNITIES WITH AN HIV EDUCATION INTERVENTION THAT HAS TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL TO POSITIVELY IMPACT COMMUNITY HEALTH.

IN CLOSING, I VERY MUCH LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH ADDI LANG AND THE **RETURN TO ROOTS AFRICA PROGRAM.**

SINCERELY,

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