

George M. Okantey, MPA, CPLP
Community and Talent Development Educator
Purdue Extension-Marion County
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Overview and Responsibilities

Experienced Urban Extension Educator with in-depth knowledge of the issues and challenges of urban communities. A proven track record of introducing and customizing learning programs to meet the needs of youth, families and communities in Indianapolis. Skilled in data collection and analysis, program development, delivery and evaluation processes. Efficient in connecting science-based university resources to address local needs by designing practical and relevant learning programs that solve problems and improve the quality of life for stakeholders in Marion County. My collaborative spirit and demonstrated analytical and problem-solving skills have resulted in leveraging over \$13 million from Local Initiative Support Corporation to create and implement and support quality of life plans for eight neighborhoods in Indianapolis. Excellent record of coaching and mentoring underrepresented groups, demonstrated ability to market programs to diverse audiences, and excellent track record of working with private, government and non-profit agencies in Indianapolis.

Core Knowledge and Skill Areas include:

Learning Design & Training	Leadership Development
Talent Development	Project Management
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion	Non-Profit Management
Coaching	Strategic Planning

Career Highlights

- Trained 350 University of Wisconsin staff and faculty on Crucial Conversations: Tools for talking when stakes are high. Over \$300,000 training savings realized.
- Education partner, Great Places 2020.
- Facilitator, Pathways to Diversity Reaffirmed, a Land Grant University Systems document, focused on diversity, equity and inclusion.
- Facilitator, National Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) strategic plan, 2015.
- Secured \$300,000 from USA Funds to create USA Science Bound Parents Program.
- Past President, Indiana Leadership Association.
- Purdue University Engagement award, 2015.
- Capstone speaker, 2013 National Extension Urban Conference, Kansas.

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Professional Accomplishments:

Marion County, Indianapolis:

- Collaborated with Purdue Center for Regional Development (PCRD) to offer Asset Based Community Development training programs in Indianapolis metropolitan area for community development agencies. Facilitated sections on asset mapping, data gathering and using industry and employment clusters data to guide regional economic prosperity. Over fifty representatives from several community development agencies have been trained, resulting in a community focused on balanced economic and community development practices.
- Science Bound program was established by Purdue University to focus on recruiting minority students from Indianapolis Public School systems to engage in math, science, and engineering and technology (STEM) careers at Purdue. As Director of the Parents program, I secured \$300,000 from USA Funds to support parents' educations and coach and guide parents to support their children's education. As a results, 60 minority students have graduated in STEM degrees at Purdue and upward of 80 students are enrolled in various degree programs at Purdue University.
- Collaborated with National Black MBA Association to establish "Leaders of Tomorrow" Program in 2008. To date 300 high school students have completed the financial literacy and leadership development program. More than \$100,000 have been awarded in scholarships to support underrepresented students to pursue higher education.
- Designed, developed and inaugurated "Leadership Marion County." This leadership development program covers the Indianapolis metropolitan area. City government employees, non-profit agencies and neighborhood associations are the target audiences. Eighty-five state and community leaders have graduated from the course. eighty percent of participants are leading or influencing in city and community affairs.

State, IN

- Purdue University Lovell Leadership Series Lecturer. After presenting Crucial Conversations: Tools for talking when stakes are high to administrative and professional staff at Purdue, six instructors have adopted it into their class lesson plans. Three campus communities of practice have been established. Created an online Blackboard learning suite enables quarterly webinars for reinforcements. During the last three years, over 2000 Extension professional staff, community leaders, and nonprofit agencies have reported using at least two of the dialogue skills that they learned to improve their business results.
- Four departments at Purdue University collaborated on a 5 year \$11.5 million project funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to develop a supply chain and entrepreneurial opportunities for farmers and local businesses in West Africa. As part of a learning team in Ghana, I trained 150 Extension Agents on how to effectively deploy

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Purdue's triple-bagging technology for storing cowpeas. As a result of this training, 60 percent of cowpeas are now stored using this hermetic method. The earnings of farmers' have also increased because of their ability to store food. In addition, jobs and entrepreneurship has flourished as new local bag manufacturing plants are being built.

- Facilitated the strategic planning process of the Indiana State Fair Commission which led to the current PLAN 2017. The pathways to realizing their aspirations and outcomes resulted in a staff audit and realignment. In addition, a youth arena has been opened and a fund raising campaign that raised over \$9 million for the Farmers Coliseum. Overall, the process has helped the commission to create pathways to success with clear and measurable outcomes.

National and International:

- Served as North-central region representative on the Extension Committee for Organization and Policy, National Diversity Task Force and facilitated the action planning and consensus process leading to creation of Pathways to Diversity Reaffirmed, a Land Grant University Systems document, focused on diversity and inclusion.
- Facilitated Extension Disaster Education Network, strategic planning process in September 2015. Conducted surveys of Extension directors and state delegates to assess current status of disaster education in the land grant system. Analyzed the data, presented the data and lead 16 Extension directors from 1862, 1890 and representatives from Extension Council on organization and Policy and National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) through a strategy process to set new strategic directions for Extensions disaster education approach for the next 10 years.

Education and Credentials

- Master's in Public Affairs, IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA).
- Bachelor of Arts: Organizational Communication, Indiana University.
- Certified Professional in Learning and Performance (CPLP).
- Session Leader, Facilitation Application Specialization Training (FAST).
- Certified Instructor, Crucial Conversations: Tools for Talking When Stakes are High.
- Institute of Cultural Studies, Group Facilitation Methods.
- Qualified Instructor, Myers Briggs Type Indicator Instrument (MBTI).

Professional Affiliations:

- Association for Talent Development
- National Association for Community Development Extension Professionals
- Indianapolis Chapter of Black MBA Association
- Indiana Extension Educators Association