

Depth for the Best
Leadership for the World's Best Organizations
Future Generations Graduate School of Applied Social Change & Conservation

The Opportunity

A major impediment limits community-based organizations, government-community projects, and community action worldwide: lack of skilled, second level staff who can take to scale their programming, staff who can lead after initial leaders have moved on. There frequently are funds for such organizations that can be viewed as “the best.” There frequently are competent leaders. But almost uniformly, the best organizations lack administrative depth. Without deepened leadership, sustainability and scale cannot be achieved.

The Need

While many programs exist to build leadership, they often require candidates to leave their jobs to take the training. So, organizations, while they allow short workshops, are reluctant to send their promising people for substantive training. Secondly, most educational programs concentrate on the theory, and even may use case studies, but are unable to use the candidate's in-field reality as a pedagogical medium. The Future Generations Masters Degree overcomes these problems through an innovative three-part blended learning curriculum.

The Program as Solution

Future Generations designed its Masters of Arts in Applied Community Change and Conservation to simultaneously address both the challenges of leadership transition and expansion, while engaging students and communities in the strengthening programs.

Students study in residential, month-long classes in four sites (India, USA, Peru, Nepal & China); they learn by interactive, online learning, and they discover how to use their communities as classrooms.

The Future Generations Graduate School of Applied Social Change and Conservation has recruited students from nineteen countries since 2003. These are professionals working in nongovernmental organizations, government programs, and grassroots community development. Students remain with their jobs throughout the program.

Their learning is grounded in scholarship that draws on cutting edge research and fieldwork in conservation, primary health care, peace building, food security, leadership, and nonprofit and organizational management. The result is that students learn how to remake their jobs, without leaving them, into a career-long professional learning process. Thus, students receive global best practice, and they also enter a life-long learning cadre of similarly focused professionals.

In this manner, the Masters Degree offered by the Future Generations Graduate School builds capacity and administrative depth in the best organizations in the world, giving them depth and allowing them to grow into greater leadership in these already outstanding organizations.