Foundation: Inclusive, Caring Communities topic area

Human beings want to live in a community where they are included in activities, and can participate freely and without barriers. We all want to live freely and independently, while also feeling a sense of interdependence with those close to us. Communities of trust are built on the foundation of love, support and respect for other human beings, but how much are we truly building our communities on these principles? In an uncaring society, money and acquisition trumps justice, fairness and equitable distribution of resources, thus pushing more and more people to the margins of society, creating discontent and isolation in communities. Are we moving towards an uncaring, exclusive society and, if so, what are the ways we can push back?

It is not just enough to create a module of what the “ideal” inclusive community looks like; active participation is necessary to truly move from being exclusive to being inclusive, which means that everyone must exercise their ability to make change and not simply remain a bystander. We must exercise our rights and responsibilities in the community and ask, what are we missing? How can we make sure that everyone is included in the community, no matter what their situation or surroundings?

We are currently accepting proposals on how to be both independent and interdependent, and how to encourage active community participation. Proposal topics include:

- Current issues and trends in living independently, and finding relevant natural supports for all community members;
- Ways in which exclusive communities become more inclusive and interdependent;
- Best practices on how diversity is expressed through community building and action;
- Best practices to ensure that all facets of community are inclusive, including schools, neighborhood parks, apartment complexes, etc.;
- Allocation of resources in a community and how to distribute them in a more inclusive way;
- Models on how to work out differences in diverse communities;
- Abuse in care homes and institutions, and finding solutions;
- Ways in which we can build inclusive, caring communities;
- How organizations, companies and urban settings are building inclusion and diversity into their values and action plans;
- Best practices and models for inclusion, which can be duplicated and are cost efficient, and which invite universal design principles;
- International, regional and local perspectives on operationalizing the CRPD, specifically as it relates to taking measures to facilitate full enjoyment to live in the community, with choices equal to others;
- Reducing unnecessary segregation in facilities and employment amongst marginalized groups.
If you have a proposal that may not fit in to the above targets, we will welcome them as part of our discussion. We welcome proposals in any presentation format. **We are especially looking for hands-on workshops.**

Please see presentation formats on our webpage at [http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/presenters/formats](http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/presenters/formats). Please check the criteria for each format and ensure that you have the appropriate number of presenters for your chosen format. You may submit proposals online at: [http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/submissions](http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/submissions) or send your proposals via email to prcall@hawaii.edu.

For more information about this topic area, please contact the Conference Team at prcall@hawaii.edu.

For general information on the conference, please contact Charmaine Crockett at cccrocke@hawaii.edu, (808) 956-7539.

For registration questions please contact the registration desk at (808) 956-8816, fax (808) 956-4437 or email prreg@hawaii.edu.