

# Learning to Dance: Forming Regional Networks

*PHENND 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

Are You Ready?  
Who Is Your Partner?  
What Kind of Dance?  
The Art of Dancing



# Are You Ready?

 Resources

 Skills

 Capacity

 Commitment

## Who's Your Partner?



# What Kind of Dance?

- Mutual Goals
  - Faculty Development
  - Community/Economic Development
- Jointly Developed
- Shared Responsibility/Rewards
- Mutual authority & accountability



# The Art of Dance: Challenges

## ■ Complexity of Higher Education

- Specialized institutions
- Governance
- Funding
- Hierarchies
- Institutional Cultures

## ■ Autonomy

- Planning styles
- Leadership styles
- Vision/design



# The Art of Dance: Opportunities

- Complementary Partnerships
- Overcome Stereotypes
- Focused on Building Capacity
  - Faculty Leadership
  - Student Leadership
  - Community Leadership
- Commitment to time and communication



# Factors for Influencing Successful Network Collaborations

- Environment: history, political/social climate
- Membership Characteristics
- Purpose: vision and goals
- Process/Structure
- Communication: frequent, open, informal and formal
- Resources: funds, leadership, time



# Principles of Partnerships

*Partnership Perspectives, Vol 1, Issue II, Summer 2000, CCPH*

- Agreed upon mission, values, goals and measurable outcomes
- Characterized by mutual trust, respect, and commitment
- Builds upon identified strengths and assets; addresses areas that need improvement
- Balances the power among partners and enables resources to be shared
- Clear, open and accessible communication; active listening & developing a common language
- Roles, norms, and processes are established with agreement
- Feedback to, among and from all stakeholders with goal of continuously improvement
- Share the credit for the partnership's accomplishments
- Partnerships take time to develop and evolve over time

