Research Development Projects and their Impact

The UR International Collaboration Fund provides seed money for research development collaboration amongst the 18 partners in the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN), of which UR is a member. Following are five examples of how faculty used funding from their home institution, the WUN and other sources to facilitate new international linkages with significant outcomes.

1. **Political Science**
Professor Richard Niemi from Political Science at the University of Rochester received $5,000 to conduct a parental survey as part of a study that examines adolescent attitudes to democracy in post-apartheid South Africa. The study is in partnership with researchers and community organizations in South Africa, Australia and the U.S. This research will lead to peer-reviewed journal articles and policy papers that will advocate changes to curriculum and teaching methods in South Africa.

2. **Science**
Professor Melvin Hoare from the School of Physics and Astronomy at Leeds and three American universities used two WUN matching grants averaging US$10,500 for collaboration in Astrophysics on massive star births. The funds enabled travel to access sophisticated equipment and expertise on its functionality. The initiative resulted in two large-scale workshops, made possible three other grants totaling US$7.6 million, and has led to an on-going consortium of 12 universities (both WUN and other). Professor Hoare cited a major review and an editorship as career impacts resulting from the WUN project.

3. **Health & Media**
Dr. Becky Freeman utilized US$7,000 from the University of Sydney to help develop a workshop that trained Pacific Islander tobacco control advocates on the use of new digital technologies and social media. The workshop was part of a US$24,000 WUN matching grant that involved three other WUN and non-WUN partners. The initiative led to a media consumption database, a Pacific-based PhD student’s research on leadership skills and international funding applications.

4. **Economics & Science**
The University of Alberta and five other WUN partners each contributed an average of US$4,000 to receive a WUN matching grant of $19,000 to conduct a workshop in Alberta on the economic impacts of invasive species under climate change. The workshop brought together climate modelers, biologists, economists, and government policy makers to develop a common understanding and initiate further research. Graduate students participated in person and through webinars to encourage capacity building.

5. **Archaeology and Climate Change**
Nine WUN universities each contributed an average of US$4,000 to develop an Indian Ocean Archaeology Network. A WUN matching grant of US$23,500 and the support of two museums led to a master class in Perth to map out research priorities. The project has led to a public website, a digital archive and the capacity building of professionals from Indian Ocean countries and graduate research students.