

ACC International Programme Office
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Den Århus-baserede Europæiske Højskoleforening, Association for Community Colleges, er kommet på verdenskortet. Ved en højtidelighed i San Juan (Puerto Rico) for nylig overræktes foreningens formand, John Petersen, den eftertragtede Outstanding Global Work award.

Det er arbejdet med at skabe europæisk debat henover staterne og ved hjælp af det læringsmiljø, der kendes fra de nordiske højskoler, der har vakt opmærksomhed - også i USA.

Organisationens trans-nationale idealer afspejles i en transnational organisation, som på grund af tætte personlige bånd kan reagere lynsnart på indre og ydre pres, udfordringer og muligheder. Netop dette interesserer "organisational development"-folket i USA, som kan sammenlignes med det vi kender som human ressource i Europa.

Stiftere af Association for Community Colleges har rod i europæisk NGO-arbejde samt i erfaringer fra de danske højskoler.

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The Association for Community Colleges (ACC) is the 2004 recipient of the Organisational Development Network's Outstanding Global Work award. The Awards and Recognition Committee met in April "and agreed wholeheartedly to recognize ACC for its sustainability and its breadth and depth of global work". "We are pleased to have found such a deserving recipient for the award in this our 40th Anniversary celebration year!"

These were the pleasant words received by our contact to the Organisational Development Network (ODN), Nataliya Nikolova – ACC in Varna - in early June.

The boarding school format as a method for creating a European public sphere – with its non-formal, formal and in particular informal learning elements has then been seen and now appreciated even outside Europe and in the world of global business.

We were pleased to understand, that the award serves a vital need of the ODN community - recognizing and celebrating outstanding contributions and achievements in serving the field of organization development.

The award was presented during one of the plenaries of the 2004 ODN Annual Conference (3 - 6 October 2004) at the Caribe Hilton, San Juan, Puerto Rico. John Petersen (ACC chairperson), attended both conference and sessions as representing the ACC.

In his nomination speech, Mr Bob Marshak (ODN Board of Trustees), mentioned in particular the trans-national character of the work and organisation of the ACC as well as pointed out the global potential of the civil society work done by the ACC in Europe.

John Petersen received the award on behalf of the 4-500 ACC members believing in combining formal, non-formal and informal learning methods within the boarding school format. "It is my impression that in US-America you understand that Europeans have to stand together – and not only on government level", said John Petersen, and continued expressing that "...there is a need to develop a European public sphere and we are some few common citizens working on it. Thank you for catching sight of us!"

Apart from the award ceremony, the OD Annual Conference was a major inspiration for the ACC, as it proved that INGO's like the ACC are far from standing alone in developing new forms of organisations that fit a post-national era. High-level speakers of the ODN network, including strategists of Microsoft, Intel and a number of OD Practitioners, authors and universities – even if within the logic of the marketplace – proved the need to investigate further the possible bonds between the triangle of market-place-demands, motivations stemming from ideological goals, and the will expressed in the policy of governments.