

Dear Friends of Community Development,

I recently did some consulting in Australia and, on the long flight home with no books left to read, I reflected on my own 33 year career in community development and all of the unexpected places it has taken me - from grass roots organizing to a health care cooperative to city government to a community development corporation to a foundation to a university. Each of these environments was so different, but I applied most of the same principles of community development to my work.

Increasingly, I spend my time helping others with their community development strategies and find myself in all types of locations - urban, suburban, small town, and rural. My work this summer has taken me to Nova Scotia, India, Australia, and Taiwan. Although the organizations, the places, and the cultures are very different, I'm finding that the basic skills, approaches and tools for community development are universal.

I hope to have the opportunity to share them with you and to learn from your own experience in this dynamic field.

All the best!

Jim Diers  
Lead Instructor  
Certificate in Community Development