

TN Participates in Global University Network for Innovation Conference in Barcelona

From May 13 through May 15, 2013, several members of the Talloires Network Secretariat attended the 6th International Barcelona Conference for Higher Education: “Let’s Build Transformative Knowledge to Drive Social Change” organized by the Global University Network for Innovation (GUNI) at the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya in Barcelona, Spain.

The conference brought together 350 participants from more than 60 countries throughout the world, representing the higher education community and civil society. With such an international group of participants, it was wonderful to interact with so many representatives from our member universities and meet new colleagues as well.



GUNI conference organizers share the meaning of “knowledgiastic”

The conference featured a broad array of sessions including plenary sessions, panel discussions, workshops, good practice presentations, and a poster session, all focused around the conference theme “Be Knowledgiastic,” defined as “showing enthusiasm about and critically encouraging the co-creation of transformative knowledge.”

Throughout the three-day conference, the members of the Secretariat who attended were all active participants in its proceedings. Talloires Network Director, Rob Hollister, presented in a panel discussion, “Why is Engagement Critical for Social Change,” with Axel Didriksson, Dzulkifli Razak and Shirley Walters. Director of Programs and Research, Dr. Lorlene Hoyt, led a workshop on “Building Partnership: Making Cooperation Mainstream.” Posters on the MacJannet Prize for Global Citizenship, Youth Economic Participation Initiative (YEPI) and Dr. Hoyt’s book, Transforming Cities and Minds Through the Scholarship of Engagement, were featured and can be accessed electronically on the [GUNI conference website](#).



“Why is Engagement Critical for Social Change” panel discussion

At the end of the conference, 13 international networks and organizations released the 4th in a series of global dialogues, entitled *The Grand Global Challenges and the Transformation to Sustainable Societies*. The text of the communiqué can be accessed on the [GACER website](#).

GUNi is also preparing its next world report, “Knowledge, Engagement and Higher Education: Rethinking Social Responsibility,” including a chapter by Lorlene Hoyt and Rob Hollister, and chapters authored by representatives of a number of Talloires Network members and partner organizations, which will be published in November 2013.



GUNi conference participants enjoy traditional Catalan music during the conference's closing session