

# **PRME SUPPORTING ORGANIZATION REPORT 2013**

## **OBTS: Teaching Society for Management Educators**

### **Major achievements in relation to the implementation of one or more Principles during the last 12 months:**

As our mission states, the OBTS Teaching Society for Management Educators is an organization devoted to the promotion of “quality teaching and learning across the management disciplines.” This process is underpinned by our values and expressed in our actions. We value “teaching as a noble calling, spanning the boundaries between art and science. Quality management education is grounded in creativity and focused on learning in the classroom and beyond. It effectively links theory and practice, research and application, design and delivery, instruction and assessment.” We live these values by “conven[ing] essential conversations to explore the elements of quality management education” and creating opportunities for educators at all career stages to come together and reaffirm teaching.” We support the scholarship of teaching by making “educational resources, best practices, experiential pedagogy, teaching designs” available to our membership through publications, website, professional development efforts, and conferences.

Since our adoption of the PRME principles we have made them a central “critical conversation” and have sought to integrate them into all facets of our the actions through which we live our values. Because we are not a provider of higher education, but rather a society of educators from many different institutions, our major actions have involved:

1. Educating our members about PRME
2. Encouraging our members to adopt the Principles at their home institutions
3. Providing materials and support that will enable our members to effectively implement the Principles
4. Creating opportunities for individuals to share their experiences with the PRME principles, and “take risks to develop their own skills and support the growth of others”
5. Conduct the business of the Society in a way that is consistent with the Principles

Below describes the specific actions we have taken in these areas.

#### **2.1) Principles 1 and 2, Curriculum change:**

OBTS sponsors a conference (OBTC) each year at a different academic institution (for details see <http://www.obts.org>). This is one of the methods through which we engage in actions 1-5 described. We also support regional conferences such as the Mid-Atlantic Organizational Behavior Teaching Conference. This past year we also sponsored the best paper award for teaching at the International Federation of Societies and Associations of Management.

The theme of our 2012 national conference was “Sustainability: Sustaining Ourselves, Students, Community, and the Global World ” and dozens of the many sessions addressed this theme in some way.

Another method through which we engage in actions 1-5 is through the publication of the Journal of Management Education, among the top three pedagogical journals in management education. While there have been individual articles that have addressed issues or sustainability, our most noteworthy accomplishment recently was the publication of a special issue in June 2012 specifically devoted to PRME, co-edited by Jeanie Forray (immediate past-President of OBTS) and Jennifer Leigh. This issue highlighted experiences in which PRME is being implemented in the management classroom, management curriculum, and academic institutions worldwide. See: <http://jme.sagepub.com/content/36/3.to>

**2.2) Principle 3, Research:**

Both the OBTC teaching conference and JME have provided forums for the presentation of faculty research on using PRME in the context of pedagogy, curriculum change, organizational change, and student engagement as described above.

**2.3) Principle 4, New Learning Frameworks:**

As described above OBTS provides various opportunities and resources to support our members in the development of new learning frameworks based on the belief that “Quality management education is grounded in creativity and focused on learning in the classroom and beyond.”

**2.4) Principles 5 & 6, Partnerships:**

Because we bring people from many different academic institutions together, we see all of these institutions as either actual or potential partners in the implementation of the PRME principles. Those who have adopted the principles become our partners through the participation of their faculty with OBTS where we provide tools and support for their implementation, as described above. In addition, OBTS is a supporter of the Gender and Diversity Doctoral Consortium at the Academy of Management. We also support faculty and students with scholarships to First Nations members (primarily Native Americans) to attend the annual OBTC, which was held in 2012 at Brock University, St. Catharine’s, Ontario, Canada.

**3) Key objectives for the next year with regard to the implementation of the Principles:**

We will continue to facilitate the research and partnerships we already support. Further, our strategy will include new initiatives to further ‘green’ our conference, board meetings and other activities, and to promote PRME principles on our website.

**4) Desired support from the PRME community which could help most in achieving your key objectives for the next year:**

Facilitate connections between OBTS and the PRME community to:

- Educate members of the community about the resources and support that OBTS provides to faculty, with particular emphasis on the teaching tools our members have developed.
- Develop feedback from the educational institutions that have adopted the Principles about what types of specific support we could provide to their faculty to enable them to more effectively implement the Principles.

#### **5) Sustainability on campus:**

While we do not have a campus, we have implemented action 6 above (Conduct the business of the society in a way that is consistent with the Principles) by “greening” OBTCs. Specifically we typically have (1) eliminated the use of individual plastic water bottles for conference breaks, (2) moved from a paper-based system to an entirely electronic submission/acceptance/registration process, (3) offered conference-goers the option to opt-out of receiving a conference t-shirt. (4) Purchased carbon offsets for all board travel to meetings.

#### **Financial Status**

OBTS is a non-profit organization run by a volunteer board. It balances income and expenses each year.