

## Communication Studies Training Seminar in Mumbai, India

Training Dates: March 3-10, 2018

Location: Mumbai, India

### Partnership Objective:

This academic capacity building programs/visit is part of the partnership between Balkh Universities and the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO). Through this partnership, the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), as U.S. partner institution, is assisting Balkh University in establishing a new Departments of Communication Studies.

Communication Studies degree is not only a unique full degree program in Afghanistan abut also in the region since no other higher education institution offers a full undergraduate degree program in Communication Studies that focuses on relationship between human beings, be they professional, cultural or interpersonal. This department will be housed in Balkh University's College (faculty) of Journalism and Mass Communication.

The Mumbai training seminar was part of our third country training initiatives that are planned in lieu of the Afghan faculty's visit to the United States. Both Afghan and American faculty meet at a third country location such as India for trainings and meetings.



The purpose of this academic training in Mumbai was to assist Balkh University faculty start the initial academic and administrative programs and activities required to establish the department of Communication Studies at their university.



The agenda for this training included:

- Discussions about online theory course
- Syllabus development for 10 classes
- Discussion about teaching materials
- Professional faculty development
- Presentation of teaching styles by UNO and Balkh University
- Teaching methodology
- Presentation of 10 classes
- Conducting research and the research process

As planned, 10 faculty members from Balkh Universities attended this training program. Seven UNO team members who traveled to India conducted the training. UNO team members offered power point presentations and lead group and one on one discussions concerning the topics mentioned above.

We had also discussed the research process in the US and how to conduct research. This was a great discussion because UNO and Balkh University professors recognized areas in which they could collaborate together.

During this seminar we also discussed the next steps for the final seminar in June of 2018. We also came up with an action plan for how to move forward and to help identify what areas the UNO and Balkh University professors need to work. One of the suggestions was to make a list of goals or objectives that we wish to cover in the next seminar.

This seminar was very successful. The faculty of Balkh University attended 6 full days of seminars covering a wide array of material. Afghan and American faculty who attended the seminars were able to learn a lot from each other. It was a great learning and team building opportunity for the attendees. The feedback received was that this seminar was very helpful to the attendees and they appreciated the time spend together.

