



## ANNUAL REPORT - 2016

In 2016, Academics Without Borders USA (AWB USA) matured significantly as an organization, while simultaneously seeing its first project to fruition, supporting three others and initiating and shepherding a second full Request for Proposal cycle. A brief summary of AWB USA's most significant events and achievements in 2016 follows.

**Projects** - In 2016, AWB authorized funding for four projects spread over four continents. In Asia, a second year of funding was provided to the highly successful first-year project at the University of Peradeniya in **Sri Lanka**. The second-year grant focused on expanding and improving faculty leadership in multidisciplinary problem solving so that this new approach can be shared with other faculty and professionals in related fields. In **Cambodia**, AWB USA provided support for a project that focused on increasing the capacity of the Agro-Industry Department faculty in the Royal University of Agriculture in food processing and distribution technologies. In the former Soviet state of **Georgia**, a project explored the possibilities of addressing problems associated with the degradation of local resources and failing rural economies that emerged when the USSR collapsed in 2001. In **Haiti** our efforts to support a project continued, despite political unrest and natural disasters that caused delays. When completed, the project at the primary teaching hospital in Port-au'-Prince will increase capacity for pediatric hematology, an area of particular challenge in this part of the world. Finally, a project in Uganda was approved that will provide formal training for midwives in rural areas on the management of common obstetrical and neonatal emergencies. This training will build on previous instructions the midwives received on the use of ultrasound for expectant mothers.

In the fall of 2016, AWB USA initiated its **second annual call for project proposals** with an email invitation sent to more than 650 recipients throughout the world. This represented a 225% increase over 2015. A significant portion of this growth likely was due to the endorsement and support of the Office of the UC Davis Vice Provost for Global Affairs.

**Fundraising** – AWB USA cannot realize its goals without an annual infusion of funds from donors and organizations that share our values and commitment to assisting tertiary institutions in the developing world. In 2016, the Board of Directors took a major

step forward in this critical area with the creation of a development plan that began to serve as a guide to all subsequent efforts. In addition, the board built, and continues to expand, a comprehensive outreach and development database to bring further focus and clarity to its efforts. The board continued its policy of individual board member commitments to the organization of at least \$1,000. Grants totaling \$10,000 also were generously provided by a Northern California foundation.

**Governing Board and Staff** –At the end of the previous year, eight board members served the organization, many filling roles often absorbed by staff members in larger organizations. As a result, the board concluded in 2016 that AWB USA had reached the point where a 12-15 hour/week executive director was needed to keep the organization moving toward its goals. Fortunately, the board found a person to fill this critical role who is a perfect match for the emerging culture of the organization. Policy direction continued to be provided by the board.

**Organizational Infrastructure** – Policies, procedures, and responsibilities continued to expand in 2016 as the flow of project information became clearer and important policy areas needing attention emerged. Examples included: an update to the project proposal form clarifying information asked of host institutions, a summary of the project review and approval process once a proposal is received by AWB, an update to the volunteer handbook provided to all AWB volunteers and new board policies for the establishment and responsibilities of board committees, the proper handling of receipts and expenditures of corporate funds.

**Outreach** – AWB USA was fortunate to have the support of former Chancellor Larry Vanderhoef in the early days of its existence. Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Ralph Hexter also provided strong support in 2015 and 2016. Since then, AWB has continued to reach out to the Northern California community and the UC Davis community to inform people about its work. These efforts will expand in 2017 and in the years ahead.