

Larissa Gross

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Summary

Senior strategist with Engineers Without Borders (EWB) Canada's Pollen Group initiative specializing in systems-thinking and the Making Markets Work for the Poor (M4P) approach, seeking opportunities with organizations implementing an M4P approach to strengthen organizational learning, effectiveness, and impact.

Recent placement at Kenya Markets Trust (KMT) Market Assistance Programme (MAP) has focused on offering tailored, embedded support to implementing staff and management in translating principles of the M4P approach into tactics to catalyze market systems change. The second priority area has been supporting the Knowledge, Learning, and Practice (KLP) team in creating and sharing resources and designing learning forums in order to build KMT's reputation as a leader in market systems development and spread best practices of M4P.

Work Experience

Engineers Without Borders

Pollen Group - Senior Strategist

Nairobi, Kenya 04/14 - Current

- Working with a team of market development specialists in partnership with market systems projects based in Africa to provide embedded staff support in applying an M4P approach. This includes field staff and middle management coaching as well as creating knowledge and practice learning systems and programs.

Program Staff

Nairobi, Kenya 06/13 - 03/14

- Acted as an embedded consultant with KMT MAP supporting staff in M4P tactics and strategy creation
- Designed training and facilitation materials to accelerate spread of M4P in the East African development community through the Knowledge, Learning, and Practice team's agenda of influence
- Managed EWB Junior Fellowship 2014 program embedding two university volunteers with partner organizations in Uganda for 3.5 month placements and providing/coordinating coaching and management support

Systems Change Fellow/Talent Coordinator

Toronto, Canada 08/12 - 05/13

- Supported Talent Team recruitment, engagement, & enablement activities for staff hired in Canada and Africa
- Developed process and executed evaluation of competencies desired in African Program Staff candidates

Junior Fellow

Ottawa, Canada & Lilongwe, Malawi 11/10 - 05/12

- Partnered with Rural Market Development Trust to research input distribution networks and develop case studies by conducting interviews with interested stakeholders including distributors, agric input businesses and farmers

Living Goods

Talent Consultant

Nairobi, Kenya 03 & 04/14

- Supported Head of Global Talent with research, recruitment, screening, and initial candidate interview needs for roles based in San Francisco, Uganda, and Kenya.

Federal Government of Canada, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development (AAND)

Research Assistant for Project Coordinator - CHARS

Gatineau, Canada 05/10 - 08/10

- Researched viability of green technology in cold climates for Canadian High Arctic Research Station (CHARS)
- Benchmarked existing Arctic research stations to inform design and performance requirements of CHARS

Provincial Government of Manitoba, Department of Science, Technology, Energy and Mines (STEM)

Research Assistant - Knowledge Enterprises Branch

Winnipeg, Canada 06/09 - 08/09

- Researched technology commercialization policy/programs at provincial government level across Canada
 - Developed report on provinces' success in creating effective commercialization programs
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Education

Carleton University

Bachelor of Engineering: Sustainable and Renewable Energy Engineering

2008 - 2012
Ottawa, Ontario

Applied Projects

Energy Economy, Reliability and Risk Research Project (2012)

- Researched driving forces behind current South African energy policies and history of program implementation
- Provided recommendations on future direction of energy policy based on population growth, available resources, political climate, etc.

Engineering Design Project - High Performance Housing Project (2011- 2012)

- Team focus - integration of vacuum insulated panels (VIPs) in wall constructed from unconventional building materials
 - Personal focus – determined effectiveness of integration of VIPs through research, selection and implementation of instrumentation to collect experimental data regarding thermal and moisture performance of the structure
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Volunteer Experience

Engineers Without Borders Carleton University

VP Member Learning

09/10 - 04/12

- Coordinated, created content for and delivered member learning workshops for chapter members

Ontario Engineering Competition

Consulting Team Member

02/12

- Participated in a design competition focused on solution-seeking on the topic of traffic congestion in urban Canada

Carleton Student Engineering Society

Director of National Engineering Week

04/10 - 03/11

- Organized laboratory tours, design focused activities and experiments for middle years and high school students
- Coordinated construction of a Rube Goldberg Machine connected electronically to universities across Ontario

Manager of Leo's Lounge

09/10 - 04/11

- Engineering lounge and convenience store on Carleton University campus – volunteer run

Facilitator & Team Head of Orientation Week

09/09 & 09/10

- Worked cooperatively with team members to facilitate a week of activities designed to welcome first year students

Carleton Sustainable and Renewable Energy Engineering Society

VP Academic

04/09 - 04/11

- Organized learning events with engineering faculty and held annual competitions for engineering students with a spotlight on renewable energy design challenges
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