**INSTRUCTIONS:** Thank you for the important work you are doing in your *Partnership 2020*-supported grant project. We talked to you recently and want to follow-up with this short evaluation form which we would appreciate you using with your quarterly reports in the future.

Please answer the following questions with as much detail as you can provide. Your honest feedback will be used for UNO to report to the U.S. Department of State and New Delhi Embassy on the impact of *Partnership 2020* grants.

1. Title of Project

Promoting Women's Family-based Entrepreneurship in West Bengal

1. Reporting Quarter (Please mention Q1/Q2/Q3/Q4 and Year)

Q1 June 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020

1. U.S. University and Principal Investigator (Name, Phone, Email)

Claflin University Co-PIs (joint duties) Dr. Mitali Wong Phone 803-535-5221 (Office) Email wong@claflin.edu and Dr. Harpal Grewal Phone 803-479-8906 (Cell) Email hgrewal@claflin.edu

1. Indian University and Principal Investigator (Name, Phone, Email)

Dr. Amit Hazra Phone 91-94342 21002 Email amit.hazra@gmail.com

1. Project Goals (Please provide a description of 500 characters or less)

This project has the following goals:

1.The proposed project activities will benefit West Bengal state in India in increasing women’s entrepreneurship.

2.The proposed training programs should have tangible impacts on job creation and entrepreneurship in both countries.

3. For the benefit of South Carolina where Claflin University is located, project staff will plan to offer a similar training program and contribute to academic research on entrepreneurship development in both universities.

1. Schedule (Please select one of the following options)

1. Funding (Please select one of the following options)

1. Quantify impacts of project (Please provide a description of 500 characters or less)

Currently, the project has 11 staff members altogether in both locations. The Visva-Bharati U team interviewed 62 potential women participants by late July 2020 for the initial Traning Needs Assessment analysis. This TNA analysis document with quantified data is attached as evidence of the anticipated impact when the training program begins.

1. Activities during this reporting quarter (Please provide a description of 500 characters or less)

Nine teams were formed in June 2020 to carry out the six required project activities. Visva-Bharati University identified potential program participants, set up an advisory board, completed research on setting up a training program. Claflin University is working on SC needs assessment and identifying program participants. Both universities have converted face-to-face activities to virtual programs. Evidence attached includes activity teams list, slides, TNA analysis, and advisory board list.

1. Budget or operational challenges during this reporting quarter and how you overcame these (Please provide a description of 500 characters or less)

The greatest operational challenge came from the pandemic and international travel restrictions. Claflin U faculty were not able to travel to VBU in the summer to set up their program. The unspent travel money for the first and second quarters needs to be re-budgeted for a no cost time extension. Team members in both countries worked extra hours for virtual program operations to keep the project on schedule.

1. Planned activities for the next quarter and beyond – note that the US Embassy and/or *Partnership 2020* team may travel for site visits during these times (Please provide a description of 500 characters or less)

1. Develop two levels of entrepreneurship and innovation training programs for women (and families) and run two pilot projects for each program in the Santiniketan area.

2.Set up a website for online classes for video learning as well as certificate programs. The Website will also serve as one-stop information source for resources for small and micro businesses.

3. Work with Orangeburg County Small Business Development Center and churches to identify training program needs in this region.

1. Have you met your Project Goals? Why or Why Not? (Please provide a description of 500 characters or less)

We have met our project goals for the first quarter (see attachments):

1.Review of research, networks and resources for entrepreneurship development identifying best practices and benchmarks.

2. Identifying potential trainees in the Santiniketan area.

3. Setting up an advisory board.

1. What lessons have you learned about building successful partnerships? (Please provide a description of 500 characters or less)

We have learned the importance of clear, transparent, and collegial communication to work with policies and procedures at both universities and with UNO in navigating budget related matters.

1. What policy recommendations do you have for building successful partnerships? (Please provide a description of 500 characters or less)

The monthly reimbursement system used by UNO for this subaward is not suitable for Indian universities as they need the actual funding to be deposited before work can commence. UNO needs to revisit this policy whenever Indian universities are partners.

1. How will this partnership be sustained after the grant period? (Please provide a description of 500 characters or less)

The two partnering universities have made the following plan for sustaining the project:

1.Visva Bharati University will sustain the project with the help of the consortium and NGOs.

2. Claflin University will work with Indian partnerships to expand the areas of delivery of the online certificate program for entrepreneurship development.

3. Claflin University will work with the Orangeburg SBDC on expanding training program sites in South Carolina, U.S.A.

1. What is your biggest success story so far? (Please provide a description of 500 characters or less)

Our biggest success story so far is the complete conversion of a face-to-face project that required foreign travel to an entirely virtual project and still maintain the original timeline for project activities.

1. Any other information you would like to share with us?

The US Consulate General in Kolkata, India held a virtual information session on rural businesses in Santiniketan on September 30, 2020. Claflin University sent out news releases to local media in the summer of 2020 on the planning for future training programs in SC. Dr. Mitali Wong was interviewed by a local television station at the beginning of the project.