

# WORLD CONFERENCE ON STDs, STIs & HIV/AIDS

July 26-27, 2017 | Vancouver, Canada



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**Combatting HIV/AIDS at the school level: Lessons learned from a pilot in Ugandan schools**

It is commonly agreed that to annihilate the level of HIV infection, prevention instruction must take place at an early age. Schools are the obvious and easy target when designing to reach young people. However, while many countries have adopted an education series and support initiatives, the problem persists. This presentation will highlight a study within Uganda specifically targeting Head Teachers. Using ordinal logistic and Rasch scaling, this study utilized *the Southern and Eastern Africa Consortium for Monitoring Educational Quality (SACMEQ)* data to predict the strength and direction of the associations between school and community-based initiatives and the perceived risk of HIV infection reported by headteachers. Findings indicate community and school-based HIV/AIDS awareness and school based HIV/AIDS support significantly predict the odds of perceived risk of HIV/AIDS infection. Socio-demographic

and contextual factors confound some of the associations. The presentation will explore the ways that the education sector can play a bigger role through the education of its faculty and administrators in addition to students.

### Speaker Biography

Linda Serra Hagedorn is Associate Dean of Undergraduate Programs, International Programs, Student Services, Diversity, and Community in the College of Human Sciences and Professor in the School of Education at Iowa State University. She is a prominent researcher in the area of community college student success with over 200 publications and presentations. As the Director of International Programs at Iowa State, she is also highly involved in international education. Dr. Hagedorn has extensive international experience beginning with her initial work in Vietnam as a Fulbright Specialist at AnGiang University (2003). She subsequently has been a researcher and collaborator in China, Indonesia, Russia, Korea, Spain and Vietnam. She is on the advisory board of international universities in both China and Iran. As the past president of the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE) and Vice President of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), Dr. Hagedorn has a rich history of leadership.

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