

Sheridan Chilvers - Roosevelt Scholarship – Impact Report

In April 2011 I was awarded the Nottingham Roosevelt Scholarship which enabled me to spend 3 months travelling around the USA to research the Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystem. This was an area of particular interest as I wanted to research how businesses with a social and/or environmental purpose were being supported. My scholarship lasted from January to March 2012 and eventually focused on 4 core themes:

- the role of universities in identifying and nurturing social entrepreneurs;
- the role of support organisations and how they support and fund SE's;
- the role of co-working spaces and how they create an inspiring environment;
- and the role of networks and how they bring together like-minded people.

The Scholarship took me to 13 American cities across 11 States, from Boston to Washington D.C. and LA to Seattle. It was one of the most inspiring 3 months of my life and throughout the adventure I connected with some of America's most inspirational social entrepreneurs and organisations. Some of them that stood out included:

- Be Social Change, a networking group founded in NYC that brought together like minded people. It grew to include over 1500 'change agents' and expanded into San Francisco and Chicago.
- Unreasonable Institute, is a 6-week boot camp in Colorado that brings together 24 of the world's most inspiring social entrepreneurs. Throughout the programme the participants develop their businesses with support from America's leading entrepreneurs.
- Starting Block Institute, is an incubator for people not businesses and focuses on individual development. Over 200 individuals attend its week long programme of activities.

On a couple of occasions while travelling I was able to connect like-minded individuals I met with other individuals across the USA. One of the unique elements of the scholarship is the direct link with the Roosevelt family. I spent 3 days living with Haven Roosevelt the grandson of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

After returning from the USA I was appointed as Entrepreneur-In-Residence at New College Nottingham, the first position of its type. NCN had 25,000 students across 5 campuses and over 1000 staff. I was appointed to the Senior Management Team and had an opportunity to create my own role and job description. I used my experience from the USA to develop innovative initiatives including:

- The first NCN start-up programme, which included mentorship support, grant funding and business workshops. Around 25 students developed their business through the programme.
- I successfully bid for and hosted the NACUE Student Enterprise Conference, the first collaboration between a University and College. Over 500 delegates from across the UK attended the event.
- Managed cross college competitions involving hundreds of students. One team went on to win the overall competition which included a trip to the USA.
- Delivered networking events involving 200 students and local business professionals.

In 2014 I left the College and decided to set up my own business using the experience and knowledge gained from the scholarship and working in the College. I established a 3D Printing business which aimed to inspire more young people into pursuing a STEM focused career. Today I have delivered workshops and presentations to over 250 young people across Nottingham. I am now working with an educational organisation to develop a national 3D printing business.