

HUMANITARIAN ENGINEERING GUEST LECTURE SERIES SPRING 2013 PRESENTS

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DESIGN WITH PEOPLE: ARE WE REALLY DOING IT?

By Dr. Andres Valderrama*



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4 – 5 PM

Student Center Ballroom B

During the last 11 years there has been an explosion of collaboration of engineering students and communities all over the world. We, at Engineering Schools in the United States, Europe, Australia and the rich parts of Latin America, Asia and Africa, can take pride of conducting activities with communities, local governments, NGOs and partners at a scale with no parallel in history. But, are we doing things right? Are we really working *with* the people? Or do we still work for what we think the people need from the high towers of our academic arrogance? Recent research, reflection and assessment reveal that we have done a lot, and that we need to do much more. In this lecture I will reflect on experiences in Colombia and Denmark to pin down what have we achieved and what are the challenges we still need to face in order to become true "designers *with* the people" and meet up with the most challenging problems for engineering in history.

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