Conference Call for Proposals

Meeting Society’s Grand Challenges through Community-Engaged Research, Teaching, and Learning

Thursday, March 31, 2015
The Commons Hotel
Minneapolis

The University of Minnesota invites you to a systemwide conference to examine the role of community and public engagement in addressing society’s most challenging issues.

“Community and public engagement” refers to the involvement of University faculty, students, and staff in research, teaching, learning, and/or service activities that are focused on addressing societal issues through collaborative partnerships with external entities including, but not limited to local, regional, state, national, or international communities, non-profit community-based organizations, governmental agencies, business/industry, and educational institutions.

All university faculty, staff, students, community partners, and institutional leaders are invited to submit presentation proposals and attend the conference.

Submitting a Presentation Proposal

To prepare and submit your presentation proposal, complete the following steps via the conference’s online Proposal Submission Form.

The form asks for the following information. It is recommended that you first gather all of the information and enter it in a WORD document and then transfer your responses to the online form.

1. Presenter Information

   - Name, title, unit affiliation (e.g., department, office, etc.), and email address of all presenters
   - Identification of lead presenter
2. Abstract

Complete a 50-word abstract that provides a description of the content of your session.

3. Proposal Narrative

Complete a short proposal narrative (no more than 300 words) that addresses the following four questions:

1. What information will your presentation cover? Provide a list of the issues your session will focus on.
2. How will this connect with the theme you’ve selected? Provide information as to how you will directly explore issues pertaining to the conference Theme that you selected. Your presentation should be anchored in important issues pertaining to the role of community-engaged research, teaching, learning, and/or outreach in meeting society’s grand challenges.
3. What knowledge, skills, or understandings will participants gain from your presentation?
4. If applicable, indicate if your presentation targets or is most relevant to a particular audience (e.g., faculty, community partners, etc.).

4. Selection of Primary “Theme”

Each session will emphasize and be anchored in addressing one of the conference’s four themes.

In developing your proposal, select ONE of the following Themes that your presentation will address. While your presentation may include information that is connected to more than one Theme, your presentation should be anchored in and focused on addressing questions within ONE of the Themes. In addition, while you are encouraged to address the specific questions listed within the theme you select, you are welcome to include in your presentation other questions you deem important to the selected theme.

Theme 1: Why?
Value, Legitimacy, and Importance of Community Engagement in Addressing Society's Grand Challenges

- Why should we consider community engagement work as a strategy for addressing societal grand challenges?
- What is the value of community-engaged work to faculty advancement, student experience and success, University goals, and community development? What value does community-engaged work have to the academic mission of the University and the advancement of community goals?
Theme 2: What? How?
Strategies, Barriers, and Best Practices for Addressing Grand Challenges through Community-Engaged Research, Teaching, and Learning

- What are the facilitators and barriers to addressing grand challenges through community-engaged research, teaching, learning, and/or outreach?
- How does one get started in community-engaged work? What support is available for those who want to incorporate community-engaged practices in their work?
- What are tips and strategies for ensuring high quality community engagement practices that focus on addressing societal issues?
- What does "high quality" community-engaged research, teaching, learning, and/or outreach focused on grand challenges look like?
- How do community and university partners build successful partnerships despite differences in organizational culture, time, vision, and needs?

Theme 3: So What?
The Impacts of Community Engaged Work on Grand Challenges

- In what ways, if any, does community-engaged research, teaching, and/or outreach make a difference to those involved? For example, do community-engaged practices enhance faculty work, promote student learning, or impact communities and community partners?
- Does doing community-engaged work really matter in addressing grand challenges?
- What are effective strategies for determining whether or not community-engaged work is making a difference or having an impact?

Theme 4: What Next?
Advancing the Work

- What issues, questions, structures, or practices need to be addressed in order to build a stronger nexus between community engagement practices and grand challenges work?
- What next steps should be taken (by the University, faculty, students, community partners, government leaders, etc.) to strengthen and deepen the meeting of grand challenges through community-engaged research, teaching, learning, and outreach?
- What are particular community, institutional, or programmatic models that should be replicated to strengthen the University's capacity to continue to advance the role of community engagement in addressing society's grand challenges?

5. Selection of Presentation Format

Conference sessions will be delivered through a variety of formats and modalities. Presenters are encouraged to select the format that best suits the focus and intention of their presentation. A variety of presentation formats is available. Please note that each format has a specified allocation of time in which the presentation must be conducted.
All sessions are 60 minutes long, of which at least 20 minutes are devoted to an open discussion with session attendees.

Identify the presentation format(s) you prefer for your presentation. You are welcome to choose more than one format. However, choose only those presentation formats that accommodate your presentation.

- **Case Study** is a 20-minute presentation from a singular program, unit, or partnership that shares good practices and experiences on a broadly applicable and replicable topic. For your session, the conference program planners will pair your 20-minute case study with another case study, based on the proposed topic or the Theme on which the session is focused.

- **Critical Conversation** is a 60-minute session during which 20 minutes are devoted to the presentation of two or more opposing or conflicting perspectives on a topic anchored in one of the Themes. Each presenter is given an equal amount of "air time" to present a point of view or perspective. The last 40 minutes of the session are focused on engaging the audience in a critical analysis and discussion of the different points of views presented.

- **Panel Discussion** is a 60-minute session addressing multiple perspectives and/or diversity of approaches focused on addressing one of the Themes. Consideration should be given to including panelists who bring diverse perspectives that lead to broader conversations, debates, and brainstorming among audience members. Panel presentations should be limited to no more than 40 minutes, with at least 20 minutes allocated for broader audience discussion.

- **Pecha Kucha** is a brief presentation that is conducted alongside the presentation of 20 slides, each lasting 20 seconds, that are shown in succession without interruption. Each presenter will be given 10 minutes total to introduce yourself, give a brief overview of the focus of your presentation, and conduct your Pecha Kucha presentation. Based on the proposed topic or the Theme on which the session is focused, the conference planners will match your 10-minute presentation with up to three other Pecha Kucha presentations that will be highlighted during the 60-minute session. 20 minutes of the session will be devoted to discussion with session attendees.

- **Poster** presentation is a showcase of work delivered through a poster display. Presenters will have 30 minutes during the morning portion of the conference at which time conference attendees visit the various poster displays. Poster presenters should be prepared to talk with visiting attendees about their work and the information displayed on the poster. Space will be allocated for posters up to 42x48 inches.

- **Research Paper** presentation is a 20-minute presentation of a paper that shares research data and/or study findings pertaining to community-engaged work focused on grand challenges. For your session, the conference program planners will pair your 20-minute research presentation with another research paper, based on the topic of the research or the Theme on which the session is focused.

- **Round Table Session** is a 60-minute, semi-structured, but largely informal open discussion among participants with similar interests to explore one or more issues pertaining to one of the Themes. Round Table sessions do not include any formal presentations and are intended to engage all attendees in the discussion.
• **Workshop** is a 60-minute session focused on skill building anchored in one of the *Themes*. All workshops include hands-on activities that focus on building individual attendees' skills, knowledge, and/or understanding. Workshops may include a truncated version or sample of a longer training that offers attendees a glimpse into possible training or professional development opportunities that they might pursue post-conference.

**Proposal Submission**

Submit your proposal electronically through the [Conference Website](#).

**Proposals are due on Friday, January 15, 2016 by 11:59 pm CST.**

The identified lead presenter will receive a confirmation message after submitting the proposal.

The lead presenter will be notified by Friday, January 22, 2016 regarding the outcome of the proposal.

All presenters of accepted proposals will be asked to confirm their participation in the conference by Friday, February 5, 2016.

Please note that due to a limited number of presentation rooms and time slots, we will not be able to accept all proposals that are submitted.

The conference fee is $25 for all attendees, due upon conference registration. The conference fee is waived for students with a University of Minnesota ID.

**Selection Criteria**

The Proposal Review team will apply the following criteria in selecting proposals:

- Alignment between proposed session content and conference focus/themes;
- Presentation of content that is deemed informative, useful, provocative, and/or cutting edge in furthering attendees’ understanding of the role of community-engaged research, teaching, learning, and outreach in addressing society’s grand challenges;
- Clarity of purpose in proposed presentation; and,
- Fit for overall schedule and program (e.g., offerings of different kinds of presentation types across the different themes).

Preference will be given to proposals that offer session attendees lessons learned, clear take aways, and/or next steps.
Presentations that offer diverse perspectives, debates, and constructive critiques of practices and ideas regarding the community-engaged research, teaching, and learning in addressing society’s challenges are highly encouraged.

For additional information or questions, contact Amber Cameron, Associate Director for Public Engagement Initiatives, at acameron@umn.edu.

Additional information about the conference is also available on the conference webpage.