U of M student entrepreneurs advance access for autistic children

University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management students were instrumental in the development of the Nesel Pack, a backpack designed to improve comfort and success for students with autism. Along with company CEO Martha Pietruszewski, the students in the school's Entrepreneurship in Action program, also developed a Kickstarter campaign that's raised more than $35,000. The backpack features straps that mimic the pressure of hugging, and contains pouches and clips for sensory tools that some autistic students need.

Announcements

Lauren Martin receives U of M President's Community-Engaged Scholar Award
Lauren Martin, director of research for the Robert J. Jones Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center has received the system-wide 2016 University of Minnesota President's Community-Engaged Scholar Award. Collegiate/campus-wide recipients are: Elizabeth Bartlett, professor, Department of Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies; Lucy Fortson, associate professor, School of Physics and Astronomy; Joseph Gaugler, professor, School of Nursing; Abigail Gewirtz, professor, Department of Family Social Science; Stephen Kells, associate professor, Department of Entomology; Perry Moriearty, associate professor, Law School; Timothy Smith, professor, Department of Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering; and Kathy Quick, assistant professor, Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

OPE, General Counsel offers MOU template for University community-campus partnerships
The Office for Public Engagement, in cooperation with the University's Office of the General Counsel, has developed a memorandum of understanding template for use in collaborations between outside organizations and the University.

Extension obesity program receives major NIFA grant
A University of Minnesota Extension's Latino Fathers Promoting Healthy Youth Behaviors project received nearly $1 million in new grant funding from the National Institute for Food and Agriculture to improve the health of U.S. children.

The New School launches Humanities Action Lab
The University of Minnesota is one of 20 colleges and partner organizations working with The New School's Humanities Action Lab (HAL) to design curricula and promote public engagement to address social issues. The first HAL project, "States of Incarceration," focuses on the global implications of expanded prisons and detention centers in the U.S.
The *Journal of High Education Outreach and Engagement* recently has released a 20th anniversary "best of" compilation of articles with updated commentary by the original authors.

**Call for Grant Applications**

**U of M Grand Challenges Exploratory Research Grants** *(Deadline: June 15, 2016)*
University researchers are invited to submit proposals for faculty-led research initiatives under the Grand Challenges framework to advance the interdisciplinary research goals of the Twin Cities Campus Strategic Plan.

**CURA Community-Based Research Assistance** *(Deadline: June 15, 2016)*
The University's Center for Urban and Regional Affairs’ Community-Based Research Assistance program seeks community applicants for fall semester.

**NIH Innovative Measurement Tools for Community-Engaged Research Efforts grants** *(Deadline: September 8, 2016)*
This National Institutes of Health funding opportunity seeks applicants for development of innovative measurement tools for community-engaged research.

**Northwest RSDP Community-Based Project grants** *(Deadline: September 30, 2016)*
University of Minnesota Extension's Northwest Regional Sustainable Development Partnership seeks innovative ideas to advance agriculture and food systems, tourism and resilient communities, natural resources, and clean energy. Seed funding is available to support projects that leverage community participation and create partnerships with the University.

**NSF Improving Undergraduate STEM Education grants** *(Deadline: November 2, 2016)*
The National Science Foundation seeks proposals that address education and human resource problems in STEM education or that shed light on new challenges facing undergraduates. The program has two tracks: "Engaged Student Learning" and "Institutional and Community Transformation."

**NIH Community Partnerships to Advance Research grants** *(Deadline: May 8, 2017)*
NIH is seeking proposals that address community-engaged research methodologies that improve partnerships and enhance interdisciplinary relationships. Proposals should focus on methods for improvement of intervention and public health.

**U of M Events**

- June 6 [APRN Preceptor Workshop](#)
- June 7-9 [Symposium on Small Towns](#)
- June 20-21 [Educational Equity in Action](#)
- July 11-22 [National Summer Transportation Institute](#)
- July 13-15 [Art of Participatory Leadership Training](#)
- July 25-27 [Summer Institute in Adolescent Health](#)
- Sept. 30 [Internationalizing the Curriculum and Campus Conference](#)

**Other Events**

- June 2-4 [ADP/TDC/NASPA Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Meeting](#)
- June 16-18 [Action Research Network of the Americas](#)
- July 28-Aug. 1 [SENCER Summer Institute](#)
- Sept. 26-28 [International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement Conference](#)
- Oct. 6-8 [Imagining America Annual National Conference](#)
- Oct. 9-10 [Emerging Engagement Scholars Workshop](#)
- Oct. 9-12 [Engagement Scholarship Consortium (ESC) Conference](#)
- Oct. 14 [Vision & Voice: Inspiring Civic Agency and Engagement for Equity](#)
Featured Resource

MNCC blog explores social media tools for researchers
Minnesota Campus Compact's blog makes recommendations for effective use of online tools in recruiting research participants and telling engagement stories. This resource is aimed at faculty seeking productivity tools to increase awareness and improve communication for community engagement projects and participatory research.

Call for Papers/Conference Proposals

Call for Papers: Second International Conference on Service-Learning (Deadline: June 30)
Hong Kong Polytechnic University's Second International Conference on Service-Learning seeks submissions from undergraduate and graduate students. Papers should focus on scholarly and evidence-based approaches to service-learning.

Call for Papers: The Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement (Deadline: Ongoing)
The Journal for Higher Education Outreach and Engagement highlights innovative endeavors, emerging issues, and reports on impact in the areas of public service, outreach, engaged research, public scholarship, service-learning, and community service.

Call for Submissions: Undergraduate Journal of Service-Learning and Community-Based Research (Deadline: Ongoing)
Pennsylvania State University's journal for undergraduate community partnership seeks submissions that advance knowledge of service-learning and community-based research.

Opportunities

Global Health in a Local Context course
The University's Center for Global Health and Social Responsibility has partnered with SocMed to offer Global Health in a Local Context: An Experiential Course on the Social Determinants, Community Engagement, and Social Action in Minnesota. The course will immerse students in the study of health equity, the social determinants of health, global health in a local setting, and community-based healthcare.

Fall 2016 Grand Challenge Courses announced
The University's Grand Challenge Curriculum (GCC) addresses important global issues through a solution-driven, interdisciplinary approach to learning. GCC courses are taught by cross-disciplinary instructors who bring unique perspectives to the challenges being explored.

CTSI seeks program specialist
The University's Clinical and Translational Science Institute seeks a program specialist for its Office of Community Engagement to Advance Research and Community Health. Duties include program coordination, project management, and evaluation data management and analysis.