

OFFICE FOR  
**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

**Driven to Discover<sup>SM</sup>**

# Public Engagement Faculty Resource Guide



[engagement.umn.edu](http://engagement.umn.edu)





## Message from the Associate Vice President for Public Engagement

At the University of Minnesota, faculty members from every college are afforded opportunities to enhance their capacity to conduct advanced community-engaged research and teaching. Through a series of workshops, professional development initiatives, mentorship programs, and individualized consultations, the Office for Public Engagement works in partnership with the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs and other units to support faculty members who are interested in connecting community-engaged practices to their scholarly agendas. I hope you will visit our website, [engagement.umn.edu](http://engagement.umn.edu), which presents these plans and a schedule of faculty development opportunities and other important issues relevant to community-engaged research and teaching. I welcome any suggestions you have for how the University might better support faculty members' involvement in community-engaged teaching and research.

Andrew Furco

Associate Vice President for Public Engagement

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## What is Public Engagement?

*At the University of Minnesota, public engagement is “the partnership of university knowledge and resources with those of the public and private sectors to enrich scholarship, research, and creative activity; enhance curriculum, teaching and learning; prepare educated, engaged citizens; strengthen democratic values and civic responsibility; address critical societal issues; and contribute to the public good.”*

## Engaged Faculty Profiles

### **ABIMBOLA ASOJO, Professor, College of Design**

Professor Abimbola Asojo’s scholarship fills a void in non-Western design studies by incorporating culture-based theories, African architecture, affordable housing, and design diversity. As an educator, she bridges the gap between theory and practice by putting her students in authentic settings. She is currently working with Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) in Nigeria to build an interior design program that will partner University and OAU students.

### **MICHELLE JOHNSON-JENNINGS, Associate Professor, College of Pharmacy**

Associate Professor Michelle Johnson-Jennings is the founder and director of Research in Indigenous Community Health, an interdisciplinary center housed in the College of Pharmacy and School of Medicine. An enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Johnson-Jennings served as principal investigator for Yappalli: Choctaw Road to Health, a project that studies the effect of the Trail of Tears on contemporary Native American health.

### **RENEE SIEVING, Professor, School of Nursing Director of the Center for Adolescent Nursing and the Healthy Youth Development-Prevention Research Center**

Professor Renee Sieving’s research focuses on the application of youth development in the design, implementation, and evaluation of clinic and community-based interventions focused on preventing health risk behaviors during adolescence.

### **GEORGE WEIBLEN, Professor, College of Biological Sciences**

Professor George Weiblen is the scientific director and curator of plants at the University’s James Ford Bell Museum of Natural History and a teacher in his “Flowering Plant Diversity” and “Minnesota Flora” courses. In 1997, Weiblen and his colleagues founded the New Guinea Binatang Research Center by working with scientists, local governments, and tribal leaders to develop a conservation area, public school, and the Swire Station Research Facility near the Papua New Guinea village of Wanang.



## Resources

The Office for Public Engagement and other units across the five campuses offer a number of resources to support community-engaged scholars. Find the resources that are right for you by visiting the Office for Public Engagement website. Resources include:

- **Engaged Scholar Workshops**

Engaged Scholar Workshops are designed to help faculty take advantage of the benefits of publicly-engaged scholarship. Customized sessions offer strategies for conducting community-engaged teaching and research through discussions with experienced scholars, presentations and exercises involving best practices. Contact Sara Axtell at [axtel002@umn.edu](mailto:axtel002@umn.edu) for details.

- **Critical Community Engagement Roundtable**

The Critical Community Engagement Roundtable is a network of faculty, staff, and community partners from across the Twin Cities campus that meets during the academic year the first Tuesday of each month for discussion, skill-building, and mutual support.

- **President's Community-Engaged Scholar Award**

Established in 2012, the University of Minnesota recognizes one faculty or P&A individual annually for exemplary engaged scholarship in his or her field of inquiry. The recipient exemplifies an academic career that embodies the University of Minnesota's definition of public engagement. Visit [engagement.umn.edu/faculty/faculty-awards](http://engagement.umn.edu/faculty/faculty-awards).

- **Public Engagement Expertise and Resources System**

The Public Engagement Expertise and Resources System (PEERS) offers guidance on how to navigate university procedures and policies in a way that supports community-engaged work. It answers questions related to intellectual property, human subjects review for community-engaged scholarship, memoranda of understanding, and more. Visit [engagement.umn.edu/how-connect/peers-mentoring](http://engagement.umn.edu/how-connect/peers-mentoring).

- **Grant Opportunities**

A variety of internal and external grant opportunities are available that support community-campus partnerships and community-engaged scholarship. Visit [engagement.umn.edu/faculty/grants](http://engagement.umn.edu/faculty/grants) for details.

- **Graduate Student Resources**

A range of networking opportunities, grants, resources, and awards, are available for graduate students interested in community-engaged research, teaching, and outreach. Visit [engagement.umn.edu](http://engagement.umn.edu) for details.



**“We are invested in building a publicly engaged faculty who serve students and, through partnerships, address the challenges facing Minnesota and the world.”**

- Rebecca Ropers-Huilman, Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs

**Nearly 89 percent of University of Minnesota undergraduates report that opportunities to connect their academic work with community-based experiences are important.**

Source: 2015 Student Experiences in the Research University survey



## Community-Based Teaching Resources

### Center for Community-Engaged Learning

[ccl.umn.edu](http://ccl.umn.edu)

Annually, more than 4,000 Twin Cities campus students participate in a variety of community-engaged learning opportunities that are offered through more than 600 undergraduate and graduate academic courses in 80 departments.

The Center for Community-Engaged Learning (CCEL) collaborates with Twin Cities faculty in all colleges to help develop service-learning courses and other community-engaged learning experiences for undergraduate and graduate students. CCEL also collaborates with more than 300 Twin Cities and regional nonprofits to assist in developing curricular and co-curricular community-based learning opportunities for students.

For more information, contact Laurel Hirt, Center for Community-Engaged Learning Director, 612-625-3344; [hirtx002@umn.edu](mailto:hirtx002@umn.edu).

### Center for Educational Innovation

[cei.umn.edu](http://cei.umn.edu)

The Center for Educational Innovation supports faculty, instructors, and academic leaders as they design innovative curricula, explore research-based pedagogies, and create high quality learning environments online and in person.

### Internships

Many colleges and departments offer or require credit bearing community-based internships for students. Check with your directors of undergraduate and graduate studies for more information or visit [engagement.umn.edu/students/internships](http://engagement.umn.edu/students/internships).

### Learning Abroad Center

[umabroad.umn.edu](http://umabroad.umn.edu)

As the University's comprehensive resource for study, service-learning, research, work, internships, and travel experiences worldwide, the Learning Abroad Center connects students with more than 300 programs in 70 countries. The Center works with academic departments to determine appropriate study abroad options for each major and minor, to help students earn credit toward their degree.

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