Engagement Spotlight

Low-tech meets high-tech in one of CURA Tech's listening sessions

The Center for Urban and Regional Affairs' CURA:Tech
The University of Minnesota Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) developed CURA:Tech, a civic technology incubator that supports collaborations among diverse Twin Cities communities. The goal of CURA:Tech is to design, create, and deploy civic technology tools and practices that help people connect, have a voice in public processes, access and deliver resources and information, visualize the present and imagine the future. CURA is especially interested in how civic technologies can improve people's access to jobs, transportation, housing, education, health resources, public processes and engagement with decision-makers.

The project is based on three principles:

- That the cross pollination of ideas by people of different backgrounds and skillsets working together can create bursts of creativity and innovation;
- That technology can help create solutions together in ways that we haven't yet imagined; and
That just as technology has become so completely embedded in whatever we’re doing at a personal level, technology can add significant value to our efforts in strengthening communities.

"Here in the Twin Cities, there is a growing group of technologists and community leaders pursuing conversations and action around open data, civic technology and more collaboration between citizen and government," says Neeraj Mehta, CURA's director of community-based research. "Working with advocates, organizations and the technology community as a part of CURA:Tech, CURA continues to work towards solutions through community-led efforts as they work to deal with the current and future challenges they face." Learn more.

Engaging U regularly features the work of a publicly-engaged unit or center at the University of Minnesota. Email future Engagement Spotlight suggestions to Amber Cameron.

Announcements

**U of M Public Engagement Issue Area Network Strategy Session**
The University's Issue Area Network (IAN) project aims to engage units, centers, groups and individuals in identifying goals and setting priorities for the University’s community-engaged work across nine broad issue areas. February's IAN design thinking workshop was featured in The Line and MinnPost.

**U of M Engaged Scholar Spring Workshops**
The Office for Public Engagement's Engaged Scholar Workshops are designed to help University faculty take advantage of the benefits of publicly-engaged scholarship. Spring semester's workshops feature three stand-alone sessions designed to offer help with graduate student advising, measurement of service learning impact and dissemination of research findings.

**U of M Crime Innovation Challenge Kick Off**
Co-Lab, The Echo Spot, Minnesota Student Association and the University's Office for Student Affairs and the Office for Public Engagement are sponsoring the Crime Innovation Challenge, an opportunity for students to develop innovative ideas that enhance campus safety for the chance to win $1,500 in cash prizes.

**U of M Resilient Communities Selects Rosemount**
The city of Rosemount has been selected as a partner community for the University's 2014-2015 Resilient Communities Project partner. The project will leverage the expertise of hundreds of graduate students and University faculty and staff in sustainability-related projects identified by community partners.

**U of M Joins Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities**
Founded in 1989, the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities aims to promote better understanding among policy makers and the public about the role of urban and metropolitan universities.

**U of M CTSI Awards Grants to Support Health Research at the State Fair**
CTSI's new Driven to Discover Community Health and Research Grants Program, which supports pilot research and evaluation projects that address health issues facing Minnesotans, awarded a combined $29,908 to five University researchers.

Events

- April 8  U of M Doctoral Research Showcase
- April 9  Webinar: Tracking and Measuring Community Engagement Impacts for Improvement
- April 10  UROC Critical Conversation: Art for Healing
- April 11  U of M Assessing the Impact of Service-Learning on Your Students
- April 11  U of M Internationalizing the Curriculum and Campus Conference
- April 11  U of M 2014 Sustainability Symposium
- April 12,13  Global Health and Innovation Conference
- April 16  Minnesota Campus Compact 20th Anniversary Summit and Awards
- April 16  U of M River Futures: Student Visions of the Mississippi
- April 17  U of M Engaging Pedagogies: Critical Community Engagement
• April 21  Student and Community Relations Community Hour: Biking and Longboarding
• May 5  Student and Community Relations Community Hour: Grill-U-Mah
• May 9  Social Impact Investing for Sustainable Community: A Community and Economic Development Symposium
• May 12-16  Connecting Campuses with Communities Conference
• May 14  Food and Agriculture National Conference
• May 21, 22  U of M Center for Transportation Studies Transportation Research Conference
• May 31-June 1  Top Coast Festival
• June 2-4  Diving In: Institute for New Community Service-Learning Professionals
• June 4, 5  U of M Morris 2014 Symposium on Small Towns
• June 12, 13  Upper Midwest Civic Engagement Summit
• June 12-14  NASPA Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Conference
• July 11, 12  What Went Wrong?: Reflecting and Learning from Community-Engaged Research
• Aug. 28, 29  17th International Service-Learning Conference
• Sept. 28, 29  Realizing the Civic Mission of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
• Sept. 29-Oct. 1  International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement Annual Conference
• Oct. 7, 8  15th Annual Conference of the Engagement Scholarship Consortium
• Oct. 9, 10  Intercultural Horizons Conference

Featured Resource

Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship Online Version
Current and previous issues of the Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship (JCES) may now be viewed online. The journal is actively building an online archive of community engagement articles and books from various disciplines which may be easily accessed. Other areas of JCES's website are being updated as the publishers incorporate new ways to showcase engagement scholarship through such things as blogs and videos.

Awards/Grants

John Saltmarsh Award for Emerging Leaders in Civic Engagement (Deadline: April 11, 2014)
The American Democracy Project seeks nominations for its John Saltmarsh Award. The award is given annually to an exemplary early-career leader at an AASCU institution who is advancing the wider civic engagement movement through higher education to build a broader public culture of democracy.

U of M Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute Faculty and Graduate/Professional Student Research Grant Programs (Deadline: April 14, 2014)
The University's Healthy Food, Healthy Lives Institute seeks proposals from interdisciplinary faculty research teams working to produce high impact research in the areas of food protection, prevention of obesity and diet-related disease, and/or food policy. Proposals are also invited from graduate and professional students to fund research and/or other activities related to broadening interdisciplinary learning in the areas of food, agriculture, and human health and that seek to establish cross-disciplinary learning and engagement.

U of M Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute Planning Grant Program for Community-University Partnerships (Deadline: April 21, 2014)
This program is designed to provide seed funding for the development of promising, authentic community-University research partnerships related to food, nutrition, and health.

Ernest A. Lynton Award for the Scholarship of Engagement for Early Career Faculty Award (Deadline: May 16, 2014)
This award recognizes a full-time faculty member who is pre-tenure at tenure-granting campuses or early career individuals at campuses with long-term contracts and who connects his or her teaching, research, and service to community engagement.
U of M Center for the Study of Politics and Governance Policy Fellows Program  
(Deadline: May 30, 2014)  
The Humphrey School of Public Affairs is accepting applications for the 2014-2015 Policy Fellows Program. The program brings together 35 mid-career Minnesota leaders from business, nonprofit, and government sectors for a unique nine-month professional development experience.

U of M Clinical and Translational Science Institute Mini Pilot Award  
(Deadline: Ongoing)  
This program aims to assist University faculty in developing preliminary data for promising and innovative research projects.

Call for Papers/Proposals

Call for Proposals: 2015 HETL - SoTE Utah Conference  
(Deadline: April 11, 2014)  
The International Higher Education Teaching and Learning Association (HETL) and Utah Valley University’s Faculty Center for Teaching Excellence (SoTE) invite proposals for the 2015 HETL—SoTE Conference, to be held in Orem, Utah on Jan. 20-22.

Call for Proposals: What Went Wrong? Conference  
(Deadline: April 14, 2014)  
The Twin Cities-based What Went Wrong?: Reflecting and Learning from Community-Engaged Research Conference will provide a space for those working for social justice to come together in active dialogue about what it means for communities and universities to practice engaged research that is reflexive, questions power dynamics, and works toward shifts in practice.

Call for Proposals: U of M Symposium on Small Towns  
(Deadline: May 2, 2014)  
The U of M Morris’ Center for Small Towns is hosting the 2014 Symposium on Small Towns June 4-5, 2014. This year’s theme is "Understanding Rural Migration—Myths, Trends, and Opportunities Exposed." Proposals are being accepted that highlight strategies, actions, and initiatives used in rural communities that attract and retain people, or strategies or collaborations employed to change the rural narrative.

Call for Journal Manuscripts: International Journal of Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement  
(Deadline: May 15, 2014)  
The International Journal of Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement is a peer-reviewed online journal dedicated to the publication of research focused on service-learning, campus-community engagement, and the promotion of active and effective citizenship through education.

Call for Proposals: Fourth Annual Intercultural Horizons Conference  
(Deadline: May 31, 2014)  
The State University of New York System's Geneseo College and Siena Italian Studies seek session presenters for the fourth annual Intercultural Horizons Conference on October 9-10, 2014. The conference committee is requesting that presentations offer diverse, engaging experiences, as well as resources for academics and professionals interested in advancing intercultural competence in their institutions and beyond.

Call for Papers: eJournal of Public Affairs on Public Scholarship  
(Deadline: Ongoing)  
This journal is focused on scholarship related to engagement in the public arena and, in particular, on considerations of citizenship, scholarship of teaching and learning, assessment of civic-engagement projects, and relationships between engagement and social media.

Call for Papers: International Undergraduate Journal for Service-Learning, Leadership, and Social Change  
(Deadline: Ongoing)  
The International Undergraduate Journal for Service-Learning, Leadership, and Social Change is accepting articles from undergraduate students on the development of service-learning projects and their impact on the community, case studies on service-learning projects, and reflections on service-learning and leadership.

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

Opportunities

**Engagement Scholarship Consortium Emerging Engagement Scholars Workshop**  
(Deadline: April 30, 2014)  
Engagement Scholarship Consortium's intensive four-day workshop provides doctoral students and early career faculty with background literature, facilitated discussions, mentoring, and presentations designed to increase their knowledge and enhance their practice of community-engaged scholarship.

**Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship (JCES) Seeks Book Reviews**  
The Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship seeks book reviews for upcoming journals that focus on recent or foundational publications relevant to the scholarship of engagement, specifically within education, the social and natural sciences, medicine, the arts and humanities, communication, and business.

The Office for Public Engagement is part of the University of Minnesota Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost.

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