Engagement Spotlight

Twice a month, Engaging U profiles the work of a publicly-engaged unit or center at the University of Minnesota. Email future Spotlight suggestions to Amber Cameron.

Southeast Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships, University of Minnesota Extension

The University of Minnesota Extension’s Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships (RSDP) work to sustain Minnesota’s natural resource-based communities and industries by addressing community-identified agriculture, natural resources, and tourism issues in partnership with the University of Minnesota. Rather than acting as a typical granting organization, RSDP offers resources and expertise and provides funding and facilitation to “buy” University of Minnesota resources (research faculty, extension staff, student interns, etc.) for community-based, applied research projects. One of five regional partnerships, the mission of the Southeast Regional Partnership is to work with citizens in southeastern Minnesota to create and sustain healthy ecosystems, strong local economies and vibrant, self-reliant communities through community-identified, regionally-based projects in sustainable agriculture, community-based food systems, renewable energy, natural resource use, rural economic development and community vitality.

Current Projects

The RSDP’s Southeast Regional Partnership coordinates 15 to 20 publicly-engaged projects at any one time. Its Southeast Foodshed Planning Initiative (SEFPI), an "umbrella" of research projects focused on food system development, is a multidisciplinary research initiative that brings the analytical strength of the University to our region’s efforts toward a southeast Minnesota food infrastructure. SEFPI is a means to engage the research and outreach capabilities of the University's land-grant institution in a collaborative way that responds to issues articulated by citizens in efforts to ‘scale up’ and develop some level of self-reliance in our local food system. Meaningful, broad-based research is one way to start ‘connecting the dots’ of years of small scale, localized projects that have not, as yet, shifted the overall food environment.

Community Partners

SEFPI's community partners include more than 30 individuals, representing farmers, grocers, non-profits, local government, schools, community groups and private interests. To read more about partners and
outcomes visit the project's latest report, The Food Environment of Southeast Minnesota, at http://tinyurl.com/food-se-mn

Public Engagement Issue Area Networks:
Planning meetings Sept. 26-Oct. 1
The Office for Public Engagement is pleased to announce the launch of the University of Minnesota Public Engagement Issue Area Networks. The University-wide initiative is designed to strengthen the internal alignment of the various public engagement activities focused on a particular societal issue, but which are currently operating independently across various offices, units, and departments. The Issue Area Networks initiative is intended to link and encourage synergy among existing engagement projects, partnerships, and activities in ways that can leverage greater collective action and overall impact. A primary goal of this initiative is to encourage the building of a more coordinated systems approach to public and community engagement by networking existing community-engaged research, teaching, and public service efforts that are focused on large-scooped societal challenges and issues. Individual faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to attend one of the Issue Area Network planning meetings scheduled for Sept. 26-Oct. 1. There will be nine planning meetings: arts, economic development, youth, health, poverty, environment and sustainability, transportation, food, and diversity and inclusion. For details, contact Amber Cameron.

Engaged Scholar Workshops:
Building the Engaged Public University through Teaching and Research
Engaged Scholar Workshops are designed to help University of Minnesota faculty take advantage of the benefits of publicly-engaged scholarship. This series of workshops will offer strategies for conducting publicly-engaged teaching and research through discussions with experienced community-engaged scholars, presentations of best practices, and activities to help scholars apply best practices to their own work. Fall semester’s workshops will feature Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs Arlene Carney and Associate Vice President for Public Engagement Andy Furco on various issues related to the promotion and tenure process. The series will continue with two workshops featuring interactive exercises to help faculty document the characteristics of quality community-engaged scholarship within their own work.

Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute:
Fall Funding Opportunities
The Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute is seeking proposals for their Community-University Partnership Grant and for Planning Grants. The Community-University Partnership Grant Program seeks to fund innovative community-university partnerships related to food, nutrition, and health. The grants are designed to further the development of University faculty research teams related to food, nutrition, and health. Proposals are due Nov. 11.

Center for Health Equity:
Works in Progress Series
Works in Progress is a monthly seminar series devoted to discussing minority health and health disparities research topics. This month, Associate Professor in the School of Nursing Jayne Fulkerson will lead a discussion on Tuesday, Sept. 24 focused on the question, “How do investigators balance their expertise in rigorous science with community needs and input in community-based health promotion clinical trials?” Lunch will be provided.

Daily Planet, Community Voices:
Neighborhood Smackdown
The 2013 Neighborhood Smackdown was hosted by and held at the offices of the McKnight Foundation on Aug. 8. Staff from the University of Minnesota Center for Urban and Regional Affairs and the Minnesota Center for Neighborhood Organizing convened the Neighborhood Smackdown, which highlights community projects that exemplify both creativity and impact. This year's projects ranged from a neighborhood monarch butterfly festival, to a community efforts to secure business development at the old Minneapolis Public Schools headquarters.
UROC Community Day celebrates University/Community partnerships:  
2 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17; program at 4 p.m.  
Join University of Minnesota Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC) staff in a celebration of University/Community partnerships at Community Day from 2 to 7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 17 at UROC, 2001 Plymouth Ave. N. in Minneapolis. Learn about UROC's latest research projects and its lasting commitment to public accountability and transparency. Enjoy refreshments, live music, tours, displays, and demonstrations. The program will feature special guests University President Eric Kaler, Provost Karen Hanson, and newly appointed Vice President for Equity and Diversity Katrice Albert and Vice Provost for Student Affairs Danita Brown Young.

Events

- Sept. 24—Center for Health Equity Works in Progress Discussion
- Sept. 25-27—Nibi and Manoomin: Building Lasting Relationships Conference
- Sept. 26—Resilient Communities Project: A Model of Community-University Collaborative Engagement
- Sept. 27—Faculty Development Series: Issues and Opportunities along the Central Corridor Part II
- Sept. 30—Lynton Colloquium on the Scholarship of Engagement: The Engaged Scholar and the Engaged Campus
- Oct. 1-2—UMN-Discovery Through the Lens of Innovation CTSI 2013 Research Conference
- Oct. 2—Community-Campus Network
- Oct. 3—Faculty Development Series: Issues and Opportunities along the Central Corridor Part III
- Oct. 8-9—Engagement Scholarship Consortium Conference
- Oct. 24—Engaged Scholar Workshops: Preparing for the Promotion and Tenure Process
- Oct. 27-29—“Transforming and Sustaining Communities through Partnerships” CUMU Conference
- Nov. 4—Engaged Scholar Workshops: Documenting Engaged Scholarship: Enhancing Your Dossier for Promotion and Tenure Part I
- Nov. 6-8—International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement
- Nov. 18-20—Fifth Global Communiqué in Community Engaged Research and Engagement
- Nov. 19—Engaged Scholar Workshops: Documenting Engaged Scholarship: Enhancing Your Dossier for Promotion and Tenure Part II

Featured Resource

Assessing the Practices of Public Scholarship
The question of how academic institutional priorities like civic engagement depend on and relate to community aspirations is a pressing ethical and political issue. Assessing the Practices of Public Scholarship, a working/research group of higher education professionals and cultural practitioners, is ensuring this centrality by elaborating and promoting an integrated approach to assessment.

Awards/Grants

UMN Imagine Fund Grants
The University of Minnesota's Imagine Fund Grant programs support projects in the arts, humanities, and design at the University of Minnesota. Deadlines are Oct. 29 for individual faculty research awards and Nov. 29 for the special events award.
Global Spotlight Initiative Grant Competition (Deadline: Oct. 19, 2013)
The Global Spotlight Initiative is seeking proposals for its 2014 grants competition to support international research by faculty and graduate students with a focus on the region of South Asia and/or the issue of global food security. Global Spotlight is the Global Programs and Strategy Alliance’s biennial focus on a region of the world and a pressing global issue.

Jack Kent Cooke Dissertation Fellowship Award (Deadline: February 4, 2013)
This fellowship supports advanced doctoral students who are completing dissertations that further the understanding of the educational pathways and experiences of high-achieving, low-income students.

Call for Papers/Proposals

Call for Proposals: National Service-Learning Conference (Deadline: Sept. 27, 2013)
Conference organizers seek 40 and 90 minute workshops related to community engagement, service-learning, and youth leadership development. Scheduled for April 9-12, 2014, in Washington D.C., the conference brings together more than 1,000 attendees from across the United States and other countries.

Call for Proposals: CCPH Spring 2014 Conference (Deadline: Sept. 30, 2013)
Community-Campus Partnerships for Health’s spring 2014 conference will take place April 30-May 3, 2014, in Chicago. The conference theme is: From Rhetoric to Reality: Achieving Authentic, Equitable & Transformative Partnerships. The conference draws hundreds of community members, faculty, staff, students, and policy makers from around the world.

Call for Proposals: Borders and Boundaries in an Age of Global Urbanization (Deadline: Oct. 1, 2013)
Organizers of the 2014 Urban Affairs Association Conference seek proposals that focus on research that explores borders and boundaries and how they shape urban affairs in the 21st century. Conference to be held March 19-22, 2013 in San Antonio.

Call for Proposals: 6th Living Knowledge Conference (Deadline: Oct. 1, 2013)
The conference seeks to explore experiences with research and innovation for, with, and by civil society, and develop policy recommendations and articulate research needs within community-based research and research focusing on societal challenges. Conference April 9-11, 2014 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Call for Presenters: 6th Annual Southern Alleghenies Learn and Service Alliance Service-Learning Conference (Deadline: Oct. 4, 2013)
This conference is designed to unite community partners, students, faculty and staff in order to share different perspectives of service-learning and civic engagement. Organizers are looking for presentations that explore the different facets of service-learning and civic engagement. Conference to be held Nov. 2, 2013 at Juniata College.

Request for Applications: Pilot Studies Using Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) to Address Cancer Health Equity (Deadline: Oct. 15, 2013)
The American Cancer Society’s (ACS’s) Extramural Grants Department has announced a request for applications (RFA) for community-based participatory research projects focused on reducing the cancer disparities found in vulnerable and medically underserved populations across the entire cancer continuum. This RFA is for pilot or exploratory projects aimed at gathering data that will be used to develop an independently funded study. Researchers located in Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin are invited to apply for this award.

Call for Proposals: Center for Urban and Regional Affairs community-based research assistance (Deadline: Oct. 30, 2013)
The Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) is inviting proposals for the spring 2013 semester for the Kris Nelson Community-Based Research Program and the Community Assistantship Program (CAP). The programs provide applied research assistance to community-based groups. The Kris Nelson
Community-Based Research Program works with organizations in the seven-county metro area, and the Community Assistantship Program works with groups in greater Minnesota.

**Call for Papers: Journal on Global Social Welfare (Deadline: Dec. 31, 2013)**
This new journal, premiering in 2014, will highlight research that informs the fields of global social development, social welfare policy and practice. Research that recognizes the significant link between individuals, families, and communities and their extended environments, as well as the interrelatedness of race, cultural context and poverty, are particularly welcome.

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

**Call for Papers: The Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement (Deadline: Ongoing)**
The journal 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, engagement, extension, engaged research, community-based participatory research, action research, public scholarship, service-learning and community-service.

**Opportunities**

**University of Minnesota Extension’s Children, Youth, and Family Consortium**
University of Minnesota Extension's Children, Youth, and Family Consortium (CYFC) is seeking applicants for the CYFC Scholars Program. The program supports a cohort of University faculty, research staff, and Extension personnel from diverse disciplines to participate in a four-year learning community about community-engaged research and scholarship and to conduct research responsive to CYFC’s interests in education and health disparities. Scholars receive $15,000 each year for the four years to support their involvement and expenses. For details, contact CYFC director Cathy Jordan at cyfcdir@umn.edu.

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

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