Engagement Spotlight

University of Minnesota Water Resources Center: A Collaborative Approach to Watershed Specialist Training

The University of Minnesota’s Water Resources Center (WRC) provides leadership in freshwater management through cutting-edge research, educational opportunities for students and professionals, and community outreach. For citizens and professionals, WRC provides oversight of community-based programs and training and assistance with issues related to impaired waters, stormwater management, agricultural practices and global water issues.

WRC’s Watershed Specialist Training is a 14-week course for local government staff members who plan, coordinate, or manage water resources restoration and protection activities. The course content was developed by leaders from local governments alongside University specialists and state agencies including Minnesota's Pollution Control Agency, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Natural Resources. Water resource issues cut across many jurisdictions and authorities so it is critical to use a collaborative, rather than centralized approach to develop, update, and deliver this course, says WRC research fellow and workshop coordinator Ann Lewandowski. “As long as we go beyond delivering training to truly engaging our partners, the course will be an important tool for developing a highly skilled cadre of water resource professionals around the state.”  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 Issue Area Networks Strategy Session April 25

Join publicly-engaged colleagues from across the University of Minnesota at the Issue Area Networks: Implementing Community Engagement for Collective Impact strategy and goal setting session from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Friday, April 25 in Room 5 of the University's Recreation and Wellness Center. Contact Amber Cameron, Associate Director for Public Engagement Initiatives at acameron@umn.edu for details.
Medical School's Michele Allen MD receives 2014 U of M President's Community-Engaged Scholar Award

Medical School assistant professor Michele Allen, MD, is the recipient of the University's 2014 President's Community-Engaged Scholars Award. Nominees included: William Craig, associate director, Center for Urban and Regional Affairs; Yingling Fan, assistant professor, Humphrey School of Public Affairs; Louis Mendoza, professor, College of Liberal Arts, and associate vice provost, Office of Equity and Diversity; Myron Orfield, professor, Law School, and director, Institute on Metropolitan Opportunities; and Stacey Stark, director, Geospatial Analysis Center, University of Minnesota, Duluth.

U of M Students, Staff Receive Minnesota Campus Compact Awards

Minnesota Campus Compact, a network of Minnesota colleges and universities supporting civic engagement and democratic renewal, has announced its 2014 Presidents' Awards and Newman Civic Fellows Awards.

Events

- May 2-3 Midwest International Economic Development Conference
- May 5 Student and Community Relations Community Hour: Grill-U-Mah
- May 6 Science, Democracy, and a Health Food Policy
- 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

Participatory Methods: People Working Together Around the World to Generate Ideas and Action for Social Change

Institute of Development Studies offers resources for participatory research methods to generate ideas and action for inclusive development and social change. Its website features information and resources to guide the incorporation of participatory approaches into projects and programs.

Awards/Grants

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 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: U of M Symposium on Small Towns (Deadline: May 2, 2014)
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.

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)
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.