28th Annual Conference on Policy Analysis, Oct. 10

The 28th Annual Conference on Policy Analysis will be held October 10, 2012, at the Continuing Education and Conference Center on the University of Minnesota’s St. Paul campus. The theme of this year’s conference is “From Anecdote to Evidence: Advancing the Role of Analysis in Policy Making.”

Stories and anecdotes can be very powerful tools in the policy-making process. However, when it comes to ensuring the most effective, efficient, economical, and equitable use of the public dollar for the public good, stories alone are not enough. They do not tell us if we are implementing the right policies to fit the goal, help hold government accountable for the services it provides, or tell us if we are using public dollars in the most efficient and effective manner. This conference is designed to show ways that we move from anecdote to evidence in developing, implementing, and evaluating public policy. The keynote, panels, and hands-on sessions are designed to stimulate discussion about the use of evidence in policy analysis, provide examples of evidence-based policy, and introduce attendees to data sources available to help add evidence to anecdote in public-policy making.

The conference is organized with one plenary session and four concurrent sessions in the morning, followed by eight concurrent sessions in the afternoon that address current policy issues and processes. Immediately following the conference, attendees are invited to a reception that will provide further opportunity to network with peers, meet and converse with session presenters, receive information from cosponsoring organizations, and enjoy complimentary hors d’oeuvres, beer, and wine.

Founded by the Economic Resource Group, this year’s conference is sponsored by the College of Continuing Education at the University of Minnesota. Cosponsors of the event include CURA, the Hamline University School of Business, and the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota.

The registration fee for the conference is $150 if postmarked by September 26 ($75 for students), or $175 if postmarked after September 26 ($100 for students). Student registrations must include a current college or university fees statement to qualify for the student rate. Once again this year, CURA is supporting a limited number of partial scholarships for attendees from Minnesota nonprofit organizations. Applications for scholarships are due September 19. For more information about the conference or nonprofit scholarships, or to register for the event, visit www.cce.umn.edu/policyanalysis or contact Emily Strong at cceconf3@umn.edu or 612-624-3492.