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# Program and Staff Updates

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**T**he Resilient Communities Project is pleased to announce that **Carver County** has been selected as its partner community for the 2015–2016 academic year. The partnership will bring the expertise of dozens of faculty and hundreds of graduate and professional students at the University of Minnesota to more than 30 sustainability-related projects identified by Carver County and its partners, which include the Carver County Community Development Agency; SouthWest Transit; Independent School District 112; and the Cities of Victoria, Chaska, and Watertown. For more information about the partnership, see the announcement on page 10.

RCP was selected as the 2015 recipient of the **Excellence and Innovation in Graduate Education Award** from the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) and Educational Testing Service. This annual award



Jonathan Miller

***The Resilient Communities Project hosted the Fourth Annual Sustainable City Year Conference at the University of Minnesota. The Knight Foundation and the University of Minnesota Office for Public Engagement sponsored this year's conference.***



Photo provided by Southeast Como Improvement Association (SECIA)

**The City of Minneapolis Health Department recognized the Southeast Como Improvement Association (SECIA) and their CURA-supported community-based research project TCEducate as a Local Public Health Hero on April 9, 2015.**

**The TCEducate program was developed because SECIA realized that a new outreach model was needed to truly communicate and engage with residents about the trichloroethylene (TCE) contamination of the neighborhood by the former General Mills research laboratory. The program uses a new and innovative model based on listening, response, and education to directly inform neighborhood residents affected by past industrial contamination.**

**The CURA's Kris Nelson Community-Based Research Program supported an intern that developed the lecture series and programmatic review evaluations to measure the program effectiveness.**

**"Without the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs and the work of our intern, Charlene Sundermann [pictured above], our work educating neighbors about Superfund law, remediation, and everything involved with our cleanup would have been shallow and without scope. CURA has expanded our operational capacity and improved the quality of our support to neighbors," said Ricardo McCurley, SECIA Executive Director.**

**Congratulations to SECIA on their award.**

is given to a MAGS member institution in recognition of outstanding contributions to domestic and international graduate education at both the graduate school and program level. RCP received the award at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools on April 16 in St. Louis. For more information about the award, see the announcement on page 27.

RCP Program Manager **Mike Greco** made a presentation to the **GreenStep Cities** Steering Committee on March 20 at the League of Minnesota Cities offices in St. Paul. GreenStep Cities is

a voluntary challenge, assistance, and recognition program to help cities achieve their sustainability and quality-of-life goals. The presentation introduced the RCP program and its five-year strategic plan, and was a first step in exploring opportunities for RCP to work more closely with GreenStep Cities.

On April 12–14, RCP hosted the national **Fourth Annual Sustainable City Year (SCY) Conference** at the McNamara Alumni Center and Recreation and Wellness Center on the University of Minnesota Campus. The conference provided peer-learning opportunities for established programs

(like RCP) patterned on the Sustainable City Year model originally developed by the University of Oregon, and offered hands-on workshops for attendees from colleges and universities interested in newly adopting and adapting the SCY model to their home institutions. For more information, visit <http://z.umn.edu/scyconference>.

RCP hosted its annual **End-of-Year Celebration** on May 1 at the McNamara Alumni Center. This invitation-only event recognized and celebrated the more than 400 students and the dozens of University faculty and Rosemount staff and community members who participated in this year's RCP partnership with the City of Rosemount. The event featured a poster session showcasing some of the more than 45 student projects that were completed on behalf of Rosemount as a result of the year-long partnership, followed by a luncheon and formal program.

**Jeff Corn** was selected to take part in the **Minnesota Campus Compact Cultural Agility Collaboration**. This diverse, cross-racial cohort brings together students, community members, campus staff, and faculty for collaborative learning and leadership focused on developing inclusive, equitable campus-community partnerships, leadership development, and civic engagement programming. For more information visit [z.umn.edu/wlx](http://z.umn.edu/wlx).

**Esther Wattenberg**, CURA's policy and program coordinator in family and child welfare, recently wrote an a piece for her series Notes from a Cluttered Desk titled "O The Harm that Good People Do: When a Guiding Principle in Child Welfare is Re-Arranged from 'Well-being' to 'Safety.'" You can read her piece at [buff.ly/1E2SsU2](http://buff.ly/1E2SsU2).

**Jonathan Miller**, CURA's Communications Coordinator, started social media channels on Twitter, Facebook, and Tumblr (links to all of these pages can be found at [www.cura.umn.edu](http://www.cura.umn.edu) or @curaum). He has also partnered with other staff members at CURA to launch the #curathingoftheweek on our social media platforms. The purpose of the #curathingoftheweek is to put a thought-provoking piece of CURA's work out weekly—maps, program news, infographics, sketches, and maybe a muffin recipe? Stay tuned at #curathingoftheweek.

Jonathan is also working with CURA's former Associate Director **Will Craig** on rethinking the CURA publications library. Given the realities of the

digital age we are in, we are looking at consolidating the catalog with less physical copies and a better digital library. To this end a partnership with the **University of Minnesota Digital Conservancy** is being considered.

**Will Craig** retired in 2014, but continues to be engaged in CURA-related activities. He was the lead author on this issue's article on one-person households. He is an active member of the Office of Public Engagement's Economic Development Issue Area Network. Will is currently working on a guidebook on how to find and map information on the original settlement history of Wisconsin, something that is easily transferable to other Midwestern states.

In late October, **Kathie Doty**, program director of the **Hennepin-University Partnership (HUP)**, responded to a request from the **Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office** for training related to their role in the case of an Ebola outbreak. Kathie connected the Medical Examiner's Office with the University's **Department of Environmental Health & Safety**, which provided expert guidance on the creation of policies and safety procedures around responding to Ebola deaths, as well as instruction for Medical Examiner staff on personal protective equipment donning and doffing.

The HUP hosted brown bags at Hennepin County sites called "The U comes to You" in November and January. In November, Professor **Ezra Golberstein**, **School of Public Health**, spoke about his research examining the relationship between unemployment and the health of children, including measures of children's mental health. In January, Professor **Rebekah Nagler**, **School of Journalism and Mass Communication**, spoke about communication inequalities and highlighted recent work that explored how Hmong,



**Ross Owen (center), Deputy Director, Hennepin Health and Dr. Kate Vickery (right), physician at Hennepin County Medical Center, presented information about the innovative Hennepin Health program and how research is proceeding to better understand its impacts. The event was facilitated by Professor Lynn Blewett (left), Principal Investigator and Director of the State Health Access Data Assistance Center, Division of Health Policy and Management at the University of Minnesota.**

Somali, and Latina women engage with and react to health messages in the media.

The HUP posted a video on their website about the recent connection between the County's **Environmental Services** department and a **Law School** capstone class around sale of energy from the HERC facility where 1,000 tons of municipal garbage is converted to energy each day of the year. The video can be viewed at [hup.umn.edu/collaborations.html](http://hup.umn.edu/collaborations.html).

Hennepin County research staff participated in two workshops on the statistical analysis of recidivism rates for individuals on probation. Professor Michael Rodriguez from the University's **Educational Psychology Department**,

and Bruce Center and Katherine Edwards from the University's **Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement** conducted the workshops.

In February, the HUP hosted an event at the University for faculty, staff, and students with and interest in the County's novel program called **Hennepin Health**. Hennepin Health is an accountable care organization launched by Hennepin County to redesign the health care workforce and improve the coordination of the physical, behavioral, social, and economic dimensions of care for an expanded community of Medicaid beneficiaries.