The University of Minnesota Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC) in North Minneapolis is a place-based, community-engaged research and outreach center that links the University of Minnesota in partnership with urban communities to advance learning, improve quality of life, and discover breakthrough solutions to critical issues.

In alignment with the University’s broader public engagement agenda, UROC is home to more than 50 university-community partnerships involving more than 35 academic programs and 40 community organizations.

University-Community Research

2014 Highlights

In 2014, University-sponsored, UROC-affiliated research projects involved more than 50 University researchers and 100 staff and graduate students from the following University colleges and academic units:

- Carlson School of Management
- Center for Early Education and Development
- Center for Urban and Regional Affairs
- College of Design
- College of Education and Human Development
- College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences
- College of Liberal Arts
- Humphrey School of Public Affairs
- Institute for Advanced Study
- Institute of Child Development
- Law School
- Medical School
- Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
- School of Public Health
- School of Social Work
- STEM Education Center
- UMN North Memorial Residency Program
- University of Minnesota Extension

UROC’s 2014 emerging research projects included:

- the Northside Achievement Zone’s Family Academy curriculum development;
- Northside Asset Mapping;
- Northside Job Creation Team;
- Sex Trafficking and Community Well-being Initiative;
- and Trauma Recovery Project.

In partnership with Generation Next, UROC launched the Generation Next/UROC Faculty Fellows program which charged six researchers from across the University’s Twin Cities campus to create teams to tackle the question: “Why is there an achievement gap in the context of Minneapolis-St. Paul and what promising practices are helping close that gap?”

UROC’s research-based Northside Job Creation Team presented data and recommendations, produced in partnership with the University’s Carlson School of Management, to Minneapolis Mayor Betsy Hodges and Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton that call for the creation of a North Minneapolis-based business park that focuses on food and garment development and manufacturing.

UROC’s director of research contributed to an expert working group of researchers on sex trafficking that was convened by the National Institute of Justice in Washington, D.C.
### 2014 Programs and Projects

- African American Leadership Forum
- AmeriCorps VISTA Project
- Black Men Reading
- Business and Technology Center's Business Development Services
- Business and Technology Center’s Business Development Workshops
- Business and Technology Center’s Community Technology Initiative
- Business Technology Center’s Junior Entrepreneurs of Minnesota
- Center for Response to Intervention in Early Childhood
- Co-Parent Court
- Community Health and Advocacy Talks
- Cooking Matters
- Cultural Providers Network
- Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program
- Ending Youth Violence Roundtable
- Generation Next/UROC Faculty Fellows
- Good Foods, Good Fathering
- Growth Accelerator Program
- Master Gardeners
- Metro Food Access Network
- Minnesota Center for Neighborhood Organizing
- Minnesota Council on Economic Education Financial Capability Mentorship Program
- Minnesota Statewide Coordinated Statement of Needs
- Minnesota Tax Education and Assistance Outreach
- Minnesota Urban Area Health Education Center
- Nice Ride Neighborhood Evaluation
- Northside Achievement Zone’s College Success Action Team
- Northside Achievement Zone’s Community Survey
- Northside Achievement Zone’s Family Academy Parent Education and Engagement Curricular Development
- Northside Achievement Zone’s Internal Evaluation
- Northside Asset Mapping Project
- Northside Digital Innovation Project
- Northside Job Creation Team
- Open Doors with Higher Education
- Partnering For School Success
- Pathways Project
- Prepare2Nspire
- Second Chance Saturdays
- Sex Trafficking and Community Well-being Initiative
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education
- Spanish Individual Growth and Development Indicators
- The Ladder
- Trauma Recovery Project
- Training Caseworkers in the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Personal Finance Toolkit
- University Northside Partnership Community Affairs Committee
- Urban Garden Youth Employment Program
- Urban 4H Youth Development
- UROC Engaged Dissertation Fellows
- UROC’s Community Affairs Committee (CAC) continued to be a critical forum for ideas, research, issues, and systems involving the University and the North Minneapolis community. In 2014, the CAC examined a range of issues, including the role of anchor institutions along the Plymouth Avenue corridor and Metro Transit’s Penn Avenue Bus Rapid Transit Study.
- UROC participated in the University’s Issue Area Networks project, a Twin Cities campus initiative designed to strengthen the alignment of the University’s community-engaged work around societal issues. UROC served as lead for the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion network, and a team member on the Economic Development and Poverty network and Education and Youth network.
- With leadership from the University’s Office of the President and Office for Public Engagement, UROC played a key role in crafting the City of Minneapolis’ 2015 Promise Zone application for federal investment in North Minneapolis.
- UROC’s staff served as volunteer board members and advisors for dozens of non-profit or community-based organizations including the Hawthorne Huddle, Kwanzaa’s Northside Women’s Space, Northside Achievement Zone, Hope Community, Inc., Hope United Community Development Corporation, Minnesota Peace Building Leadership Institute, Cultural Wellness Center and North American Water Office.
- UROC’s Witness Project Creative Writing Workshops provided free, community-based writing workshops exploring themes of social justice.
- UROC collaborated with youth-serving organizations and agencies to present its annual Summer Resource Fair, an event showcasing educational, recreational, and creative opportunities for youth of all ages.
Presentation and Event Highlights

2014 Highlights

- UROC welcomed more than 2,050 visitors each month through its doors for public presentations, community discussions, academic workshops and research disseminations. As a meeting facility, UROC's public meeting rooms served as the location for more than 740 University and community-coordinated meetings.

- UROC's signature Critical Conversations series brought together more than 400 visitors in discussions with scholars, activists, historians, artists, and community leaders on urban issues and ideas. The series featured a panel discussion with local artists and therapists on the role of creativity in trauma recovery and a conversation tied to Constitution Day on the life and civil rights legacy of Hubert H. Humphrey.

- Research dissemination events included UROC’s Community Day open house; a presentation to Minneapolis Public Schools and Hmong families on student success; and a demonstration of the Northside Asset Map to community-based health care workers.

- News media highlights included the release of the ground-breaking research “Mapping the Market for Sex With Trafficked Minor Girls in Minneapolis” report completed in partnership with Othayonih Research and the Women’s Foundation of Minnesota.

- Highlights in UROC’s gallery included a retrospective on the life of Hubert Humphrey, a collection of photographic portraits exploring the mystique of diastemas, a student-driven photography exhibit on sex trafficking, and a juried show of artwork from local high school students participating in the 2014 U.S. Congressional Arts Competition.

- To better connect residents with resources, UROC’s monthly CAC meetings featured speakers from a range of organizations including Metro Transit, Minneapolis City Council, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Minneapolis Police Department and Neighborhood Health Source.

Student Involvement

2014 Highlights

- Members of the first cohort of UROC Engaged Dissertation Fellows—Brian Lozenski and Beth Dierker—graduated from the University of Minnesota with doctorate degrees.

- UROC employed more than 50 University students in work ranging from research projects involving data collection, analysis, and literature reviews, to front-desk reception work.

- UROC’s growing reputation as an innovative research and engagement center attracted visiting faculty, staff and students from around the world including University of New Zealand; University of Johannesburg, South Africa; University of Wisconsin; University of Nebraska; University of Alaska Southeast; Indiana State University; University of Notre Dame; and Carleton College.

- UROC’s director of research is a member of the University's Institutional Review Board’s Student Review Committee, which reviews human subject issues and concerns in student initiated research.

- UROC faculty taught a range of University engagement-related courses including: Neighborhood Revitalization: Theories and Strategies; Community Building and Health, Global and Diverse Families; Healing Historical Conflicts, and Sociology of Education. UROC staff presented in classes on the subjects of cultural awareness, knowledge and health, as well as on integrative leadership.
## 2014 Grants and Contracts

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<tr>
<th>Grants</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s Foundation of Minnesota</td>
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<td>Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota</td>
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<td>University of Minnesota Institute for Advanced Study</td>
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<td>Northside Funders Group</td>
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**TOTAL** $120,900

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<tr>
<th>Contracts</th>
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<td>Northside Achievement Zone: Family Academy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minnesota Department of Human Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minnesota League of Women Voters</td>
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<tr>
<td>YouthLink</td>
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**TOTAL** $167,000

## 2014 UROC Supporters

The following organizations and individuals contributed time, talent and/or financial support to UROC’s partner-based initiatives:

- African American Read-In
- Black Storyteller’s Alliance
- Breaking Free
- Bush Foundation
- Camphor United Methodist Church
- Chrys Carroll
- City of Minneapolis
- City of Minneapolis Department of Community Planning and Economic Development
- Commissioner Linda Higgins
- Councilmember Blong Yang
- Cultural Provider’s Network
- Cultural Wellness Center
- Donald Fraser
- EMERGE Community Development
- Family Partnership’s PRIDE Program
- Generation Next
- George Roberts
- Governor’s Urban Initiative Board
- Hennepin County
- Hennepin County Department of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation
- Hope Community
- Jimmy Longoria
- Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee
- KFAI Radio
- Kente Circle
- Kwanzaa Community Church
- Kwanzaa’s Northside Women’s Space
- League of Women Voters
- Lisa Loudon
- Lyndel King
- Minneapolis Police Department
- Minneapolis Police Department 4th Precinct
- Minneapolis Public Schools
- Minneapolis Urban League
- Minneapolis Park and Recreation
- Minnesota Arts and Culture Heritage Fund
- Minnesota Campus Compact
- Minnesota Department Of Economic Development
- Minnesota Department of Human Services
- Minnesota Indian Women’s Resource Center
- Natural Resources Research Institute at the University of Minnesota, Duluth
- North Hennepin Community College
- Northpoint Health and Wellness Center
- Northside Achievement Zone
- Northside Economic Opportunity Network
- Northside Funders Group
- Northwest Area Foundation
- Northside Residents Redevelopment Council
- Othayonih Research
- Paul Stone
- Phira Rehm
- Pillsbury United Communities
- Proverbs Christian Fellowship
- Reatha Clark King
- Representative Raymond Dehn
- Representative Joe Mullery
- Robyne Robinson
- Seitu Jones
- Senator Bobby Joe Champion
- Stephanie Morris
- Summit Academy OIC
- The Art Within Us/TAWU
- The Link
- The Office of Minnesota Congressman Keith Ellison
- Terry Williams
- University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management
- University of Minnesota Center for Urban and Regional Affairs
- University of Minnesota Humphrey School of Public Affairs
- University of Minnesota Institute for Advanced Studies
- University of Minnesota Metropolitan Consortium
- University of Minnesota Office for Public Engagement
- University of Minnesota Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
- Urban Homeworks
- Women’s Foundation of Minnesota
- YouthLink