UPDATES

Urban Research and Outreach/Engagement Center Updates

Infrastructure: In June 2008, UROC engaged the Lyceum Group, headed by Erline Belton, to develop a strategic planning process. There are two phases of their process: 1) from Sept. 15-17, Lyceum held individual interviews with key stakeholders and leaders about their vision of UROC and their expectations and 2) we are planning a “Futures Search Conference” for 80 stakeholders to provide input into the development of UROC’s Strategic Plan. Members of the Community Affairs Committee are invited to help identify a theme for the conference, and volunteer for the Conference Planning Team, which requires a commitment of four meetings of approximately 2 hours each. The Conference is tentatively scheduled for November 14-15, 2008. Attendance will be by invitation to key stakeholder groups, identified through various processes, including recommendations from the Community Affairs Committee.

Space: In May, 2008, the University hired Urban Design Perspectives with Charles Levine to serve as the architectural firm to oversee the renovation of 2001 Plymouth Avenue. On September 26, 2008, UROC occupants will have an opportunity to see preliminary space and furniture designs. Once their input has been incorporated, a presentation will be made to the Community. Additionally, anyone with an interest in landscape design and environmental issues is invited to a meeting on September 27, 2008 at the Urban League, 9-11am. Please confirm with Makeda Zulu-Gillespie (unp@umn.edu).

Programs: There are currently 15 programs or offices that will be located in UROC. They include: Academic Health Center Programs, Center for Early Education & Development Programs, Center for Innovation and Economic Development Programs, College of Liberal Arts Departmental Community Coordinators (African American and African Studies), Extension Programs, FIPSE-UROC Work groups, Medical School Programs, the University Northside Partnership, and the UNP Work Groups.
Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education
The FIPSE-UROC will introduce Martin Adams, the FIPSE-UROC Project Coordinator, and provide details about what the work groups have accomplished over the summer. Summer activities included working with youth gardens, youth entrepreneurship programs, and youth service providers to determine what activities might be helpful in addressing issues and meeting their needs. There are three FIPSE-UROC work groups: Vital Communities, Urban Wellness and Human Talent. For more information about the work groups and/or the FIPSE-UROC grant, please contact Geoff Maruyama at geoff@umn.edu or (612) 625-5861.

University Northside Partnership
Makeda Zulu-Gillespie has been given increased responsibilities that include convening the UNP Community Affairs Committee, and working with this body to develop a process for expanding the partnership, getting partners to commit to attending meetings, and governance in order to develop a sustainable processes.

Community Benefits Agreement Presentation
Northside Residents Redevelopment Council as the facilitator of the Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) process has secured William Mitchell law school to draft the CBA. Once the draft is completed, the UNP and FIPSE work groups will be asked to review the document and provide feedback, along with the residents of North Minneapolis. For more information, contact Sherrie Pugh Sullivan at spugh@nrrc.org or (612) 335-5924.

CENTER FOR URBAN & REGIONAL AFFAIRS (CURA)
-- Northside Seed Grants (NSG) Spring Round of Competition
These seed grants support community organizations that operate programs serving residents of the Minneapolis Northside community by providing student research assistants and faculty researchers to carry out neighborhood-initiated and neighborhood-guided projects. The program provides approximately 200 hours of student time to work on a project defined by the community (260 hours during the summer.) Applications are available online at the Center for Urban & Regional Affairs (CURA) website: http://www.cura.umn.edu/NSG.php For more information contact Kris Nelson, the University-Northside Partnership Seed Grant coordinator, by phone at 612-625-1020 or by e-mail at: ksn@umn.edu.

Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI)
Faculty and staff from the University of Minnesota are preparing a major proposal to NIH, developing a Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) to create interdisciplinary knowledge and to apply that knowledge to important local health issues The CTSI will help identify and solve health issues using a model of engaged scholarship in which academic researchers work collaboratively with community organizations and citizens to co-produce researchable questions and knowledge that matter to the community partners, and then develop and implement research proposals that address those questions. For more information contact Mary T. Story, 626-8801 or story001@umn.edu.