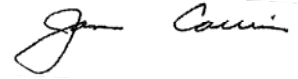


HENNEPIN-UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP QUARTERLY UPDATE

From Commissioner Jan Callison's Office
Winter 2010

The Hennepin-University Partnership (HUP) is supported by the Hennepin County Board and the University of Minnesota. On behalf of the County Board, I've accepted a role as the Board lead, responsible for providing guidance and monitoring the progress of this important and unique initiative. This update is intended to communicate within Hennepin about HUP activities and outcomes. For additional information, please contact me or Kathie Doty at kdoty@umn.edu.



The Latest

2010 Symposium

The HUP held the second Hennepin-University Symposium on January 29, 2010 at Coffman Union. Commissioner Jan Callison kicked off the event by welcoming 175 Hennepin County and University of Minnesota staff, faculty and students. State Demographer Tom Gillaspay and State Economist Tom Stinson teamed up to give a sobering and provocative presentation on economic and demographic challenges facing Minnesota.

Attendees broke out into smaller groups to learn about the HUP's focus areas—Child Well-Being, Educational Attainment, Impact of an Aging Population, the Transitway Impacts Research, and Ending Homelessness. Breakout rooms were filled to capacity and fueled the final event, a panel discussion titled "Why Collaborate...Especially Now?". Sean Kershaw, Executive Director of the Citizens League, artfully lead a group of leaders from the County and the University in a dialogue about the relevance of collaboration between the County and the University and most importantly, what practical steps should be considered to reap the full benefits of this Partnership.

The event also included an information fair for attendees to learn more about projects and programs within the County and University. The HUP is excited to build upon the energy created by the Symposium and the many potential projects that will result. For more on the Symposium, go to the HUP website: <http://www1.umn.edu/hup/index.html>



"All of us in public service face a unifying challenge-- how do we work smarter in the face of today's economic and social challenges? We know that answers exist and we know that we have the ability and the capacity to find them. But we also know that we will do better if we work with others." – Commissioner Jan Callison's Opening Remarks

HUP Focus Areas

At a planning session in April 2009, Hennepin County Commissioners, County Administration, and leaders from the University of Minnesota convened to determine focus areas for the HUP. Here is an update on the policy areas that were chosen:

EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

Increasing high school graduation rates is considered one of the most effective ways to improve the wellbeing of the community.



Major public policy question: What role should the County play in increasing high school graduation rates?

Recent collaborations between Hennepin and the U:

- The County Attorney's be@school truancy prevention program will be evaluated by the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare (CASCW). The CASCW and the Research, Planning and Development Department (RPD) are also working together on an evaluation of the Strong Beginnings program.
- RPD is working with University and Augsburg students to do case reviews from various departments in order to analyze education goals.
- University College of Education and Human Development Associate Dean Heidi Barajas was asked to co-chair the Hennepin County A-GRAD Policy Advisory Board.

CHILD WELL-BEING



Programs for children whose parents are not able to care for them sometimes do not achieve the goal of providing a stable and secure place where such children can thrive. In particular, adoptions sometimes "fail," and children placed in foster care do not develop a healthy attachment to an adult caregiver.

- **Major public policy question:** How can the County increase successful outcomes for children placed in foster care?

Recent collaborations between Hennepin and the U:

- A Research Assistant has been hired to do three comprehensive literature reviews:
 - Children in the system who were reunified then reenter the child protection system-- why is this happening?
 - Adoption disruptions - what is causing disruption?
 - What are the systems of care needed for foster children to transition to adulthood?
- A resource guide with evidence-based ratings is also being developed.
- Minn-LInK: CASCW uses state administrative data from multiple agencies to answer questions about the impacts of policies, programs, and practice on the well being of children in Minnesota. This is a useful resource for Hennepin County Child Protection.

IMPACTS OF THE AGE WAVE



The demographics of our county, state, and country are changing with regard to age as the "baby boomers" grow older and create a significant population 'bubble'.

Major public policy questions: What are the implications of the wave of aging boomers on County services and operations? What about for the University?

Recent collaborations between Hennepin and the U:

- A group of Hennepin County managers working with the HUP have chosen to focus first on *housing* issues
 - How will the current housing stock match up with Boomer needs?
 - What data is needed to answer this question and how can we access that data?
- Second area of focus will be life-long learning and how this affects quality of life

For meeting notes and research materials collected to date, visit: <http://hennepin-university.ning.com/groups>.

Several initiatives and programs have been launched or sponsored through the HUP, and work continues in these areas:

Transitway Impacts Research Program (TIRP)

Results from three (3) research projects undertaken since the inception of the TIRP will be presented at the first TIRP research conference which is tentatively scheduled for **Friday, March 26** (check this site for more information: <http://www.cts.umn.edu/Research/Featured/Transitways/>). This event will also include a panel discussion about how research can inform policy work around transitway development. Commissioner McLaughlin is expected to participate on this panel.



Research conducted under this program recently was highlighted in the national **Transportation Research Board's** monthly newsletter. Humphrey Institute Professor Ed Goetz's research examined impacts on property values by proximity to the Hiawatha LRT line; land-use changes that have occurred around the line's transit stations; and changes in the level of housing investment within the corridor. On January 25, this research program was also cited as an exceptional example of using research to inform public policy by Acting Center for Transportation Studies Director Laurie McGinnis when she addressed a room of transportation leaders including members of the Minnesota congressional delegation and U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood at a Transportation Reauthorization Outreach Tour.

Research on Homelessness

Lisa Thornquist, Research and Project Evaluation Coordinator for Hennepin County's Office to End Homelessness, continues to engage with the University on evaluating parts of the Heading Home Hennepin plan. Most recently, she has been working with the University's Educational Policy and Administration department's program evaluation



class. The class is working with data provided by Hennepin to evaluate the YouthLink program for homeless youth. She is also partnering with a class taught by Professor Melissa Stone, Director of Public and Nonprofit leadership at the Humphrey Institute. This class will be studying and evaluating Heading Home Hennepin as a model for collaboration. Dr. Thornquist's work with Humphrey Institute Professor Maria Hanratty's class to examine use of single adult shelter in Hennepin County continues, along with refugee research with Professor David Hollister at the School of Social Work.

In the Concept Phase

Evaluating the HSPHD Client Service Delivery Model

HSPHD has asked HUP staff to explore possible connections with the University to provide support for plans to evaluate the effectiveness of the new Client Service Delivery model. While the need is for a long-term and comprehensive approach, an initial step has been taken to analyze impacts. Paula Haywood, HSPHD Regional Manager and Bina Nikrin, HSPHD Planning Analyst, are working with Humphrey Professor Jodi Sandfort's Government Nonprofit Relationships capstone class this winter semester to conduct an analysis of county-nonprofit partnerships. In January, Ms. Haywood and Ms. Nikrin visited the capstone class and presented background on HSPHD's new Client Service Delivery Model.

Citizen Professional Project

The HUP is working with Professor Bill Doherty from the U's Family Social Science department and four County departments to develop a project that will test a model for building a cohort of "citizen professionals." The model emphasizes shared responsibility between communities and government to address important issues - government staff working with the public, not simply for the public. A cohort of six County staff will be trained in how to apply this model and will receive coaching as they launch projects with community members that address issues of importance to both the community and the County. County Administration and the County's Research, Planning and Development Department are sponsoring this pilot and RPD will assist in evaluating results. For more on the Citizen Professional model, go to: <http://www.cehd.umn.edu/cpc/FacultyStaff.html>

Upcoming HUP Noontime Forum

On **February 25th** at the HCGC, C2350, the HUP will host Professor Katherine Fennelly, Humphrey Institute, presenting "**Ten Myths about Immigration**". Email Crystal Lewis to register—hamppt071@umn.edu.

TWO FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

2010 Pilot Grants in Health Disparities Research

These grants are designed to encourage community-initiated research and foster sustainable long-term collaboration between community-based organizations and academic researchers on research projects focused on reducing and eliminating health disparities. Priority will be given to projects that have a high likelihood of leading to future funding by the National Institutes of Health, or other federal, state, or private funding agencies. Funding support for the 2010 pilot grants is provided by the University of Minnesota Clinical and Translational Science Institute and the Masonic Cancer Center. In 2010, we expect to make 4-5 awards, ranging from a minimum of \$10,000 to a maximum of \$25,000 in direct costs.

For more information: http://www.med.umn.edu/ccr/hdresearch/2010_Pilot_Grants/home.html

Faculty Interactive Research Program Grants

The Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) invites proposals from regular faculty across the University of Minnesota for our Faculty Interactive Research Program. The purpose of the program is to encourage University faculty to carry out research projects that involve a significant issue of public policy for the state or its communities and that include interaction and engagement with groups, agencies, or organizations in Minnesota involved with the issue. Each award will provide support for one month of the faculty member's time in the summer of 2010 and a half-time graduate research assistant for the 2010–2011 academic year. Limited support may be provided for miscellaneous research expenses.

For application procedures and more information, visit <http://www.cura.umn.edu/Programs/FIRP/announce.php>. Completed applications must be received in the CURA office by 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 31, 2010. Grant recipients will be notified in April.



Brad Hokanson, College of Design, Design Institute

Brad Hokanson was recently chosen to direct the University's Design Institute and is also an associate professor of graphic design. Professor Hokanson's scholarship and teaching involve design, creativity and innovation. He earned a Bachelor's degree in studio arts from Carleton College, a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Minnesota, a Master of Architecture degree in urban design from Harvard University and also a doctorate in instructional systems technology from the U of M. Honors he has received include the outstanding teaching award from the College of Design in 2008.

Professor Hokanson's objectives for the Design Institute are to:

- 1. Build and rebuild active relationships with the faculty of the college and the design community.*
- 2. Establish a sustainable financial capacity through fundraising, earned monies, and direct support from the university.*
- 3. Develop a series of initiatives that advance understanding of the cause of design at the university, including an ongoing electronic presence using static and dynamic Internet tools, social networking software and print-on-demand publishing.*

Contact Information: call at 612-624-4918 or email brad@umn.edu

Anita Larson, School of Social Work, Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare (CASCW)

Anita Larson is CASCW's Minn-LInK Coordinator. The Minn-LInK project is a unique resource for students and faculty who want to do research on child welfare using administrative program data. Minn-LInK's objectives include informing policy, practice, and adding to current knowledge about how children and families are faring who use Minnesota systems. Current studies focus on adolescents and early disability identification in young children. Prior to coming to the University, Anita worked at Hennepin County in direct human services practice, policy analysis and planning, and she has also done public and non-profit agency consulting. She has an Master of Arts in Human and Health Services Administration.

Contact Information: call at 612-625-8169 or email amlarson@umn.edu



Andrew Furco, Associate Vice President for Public Engagement, Office for Public Engagement

Andrew Furco is the University's Associate Vice President for Public Engagement, and he also serves in two other roles: as an Associate Professor in the College of Education and Human Development and as Director of the University's International Center for the Study of Public Engagement and Service-Learning (ICS-PESL). The Office for Public Engagement works to enhance the University's activities and stature as a publicly engaged research university. The Office provides University-wide leadership to catalyze, facilitate, advocate, coordinate, connect, communicate, and align engaged initiatives across units and with

external constituencies. Dr. Furco works with the Hennepin-University Partnership and holds up the Partnership as a model for effective connections between academia and local government. Dr. Furco holds a bachelors degree in music and a masters degree in special education, both from UCLA. He received his doctorate in educational administration from UC Berkeley. Contact information: call at 612-624-1562 or email afurco@umn.edu