



First Annual Hennepin-University Partnership Symposium

October 10, 2008

The Symposium was held on October 10th, 2008 at the Hubert H. Humphrey Center. Over 140 attendees from Hennepin County and the University of Minnesota convened to hear speakers talk about collaborative projects, learn about successful collaborations, and network. A summary of the day follows:



Introduction to the Partnership

Speakers:

- **Robert Jones** (University Senior Vice President for System Academic Administration)
- **Commissioner Randy Johnson** (Chair of Hennepin County Board)
- **Commissioner Linda Koblick** (Lead Hennepin County Commissioner for the HUP)

"Our [Hennepin County and the U of M] missions are in sync— the Partnership provides an opportunity for our mutual interests to be leveraged to improve the quality of life for families and children in our urban areas." -- Senior Vice President Robert Jones

"This Partnership began with the idea that we could and must take advantage of the tremendous research capabilities and expertise right outside our door at the University."
- Commissioner Randy Johnson

"We have to find value through tapping each others' wealth of intellectual resources, and the synergy that can come with connecting practitioners in the field with top level researchers."
- Commissioner Linda Koblick



Morning Panel: Examples of Effective Collaboration

During the morning panel, the audience had the opportunity to hear and learn about three examples of effective collaboration: Transitway Impacts Research Program, Program Evaluation of Library Tutoring, and Urban Design for the HERC facility.

Speakers:

Heidi Barajas (Moderator)
- College of Education and Human Development Associate Dean

Carl Michaud
- Hennepin County Environmental Services Director

Marthand Nookala
- Hennepin County Assistant County Administrator, Public Works

Gretchen Wronka
- Hennepin Library Youth Services and Outreach Coordinator

Lisa Kimball
- College of Education and Human Development Lecturer

Virajita Singh
- College of Design Assistant Professor

Robert Johns
- University Center for Transportation Studies Director

Ed Goetz
- Humphrey Institute for Public Affairs Faculty



"There is tremendous opportunity for the future. Together we can not only advance knowledge and solve problems, but also create a presence nationally that really helps the reputation of the University of Minnesota." -Robert Johns

"If this partnership did not happen, our students would not have had the opportunity to work on a real world project." -Virajita Singh

"It was absolutely worth it to collaborate; part of the work was developing trust and respect between the University and the Hennepin County Library. Living through challenges, laughing together, and doing work that was worthwhile." - Lisa Kimball



Partnership and Networking Forum

The Partnership and Networking Forum was an opportunity for Hennepin County and University of Minnesota individuals to meet one another informally and discuss potential connections. In the Humphrey Forum, guests could also view displays of collaborative projects and provide input on ideas for the future of the Hennepin-University Partnership.



Lunch Keynote-- Peter Hutchinson (President, Bush Foundation)

During the lunch hour, Peter Hutchinson spoke about the significance of partnerships and the ability to adapt to change in today's competitive and ever changing climate.

Organizations can no longer view partnerships as an afterthought in executing a strategy— it must be a priority. The future requires each establishment to come together to learn from one another to find common ground and equally

important, mutual benefit. The Hennepin-University Partnership is an excellent opportunity to overcome the challenges that lie ahead by continuing to break down those barriers that stand in the way of effective collaboration. In challenging economic times, this Partnership is more important than ever.



Afternoon Panel— The Future of Collaboration

Speakers:

- Tom Scott (Director of CURA)
- Richard Johnson (County Administrator)
- Kathie Doty (HUP Program Director)

"While there are lots of differences between these institutions, we both have very intelligent, well-trained and educated people who are dedicated, work very hard, and take great pride in success of their respective institutions. We have a strong base from which to build successful collaborations." -Tom Scott

"We are not going to be able to do the things the same way we've done them in the past, so what is the alternative? I think it is partnerships with a variety of institutions and organizations. The University is a major one because it is so large and so dominant in our community. "

- Richard Johnson

Conclusion

The first annual Hennepin-University Symposium ended with a look to the future. Kathie Doty, Program Director for the Partnership, led an interactive session with the audience to identify key issues that will be of the greatest importance to both institutions and the surrounding community in the future, such as renewable energy, efficient/effective human service delivery, and future funding of government operations.