

COMMNS TIES

NEWS FROM THE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY AND NONPROFIT STUDIES (The CommNS)

WINTER 2019 | ISSUE 2



What's new at the CommNS?

Happy New Year, friends of the CommNS! Fall 2018 and the start of 2019 has been a time of building and strengthening for our Center. Many of you have played a role and we thank you! We continue to develop our staff team and student roles. Our advisory groups, focus areas, and affiliates lists continue to grow and develop, and our work with other campus units, Wisconsin organizations, and global partners, is more exciting and productive than ever. We are delighted with the way our "Co-Create" efforts have allowed us to increasingly support the important work of Wisconsin community organizations.

We enjoyed a robust schedule of Lunch and Learn outreach events this fall, ranging from scholarly presentations on nonprofit boards to "What is Social Entrepreneurship, Anyway?" to a workshop on Community-Engaged Research. Stay tuned for more exciting opportunities to learn with us in 2019, including at our Annual Event on April 24th, where we'll focus on "Where Mission Meets Advocacy". We'll once again host the annual "Fundraising and Development for Nonprofits Conference", which will celebrate its 25th anniversary this year!

PAGE 1

Get to know Co-Create

Last spring, the CommNS officially launched Co-Create, our shop for tailored technical assistance and small collaborative projects with nonprofits and community groups. In Co-Create, we bring to the table the best we have to offer as a university-based center, including expertise in nonprofits and community change, skills in evaluation and data-for-action, group and process facilitation, and connections to university people and resources. We center your organizations' specific interests and needs and leverage your unique assets in innovative, engaging, and useful projects that advance your mission.



This year, we partnered with the Bayview Community Foundation of Madison to develop and implement a resident engagement process to inform the redevelopment of the neighborhood, including housing, the community center, and outdoor spaces. Often redevelopment efforts do not effectively engage the residents so in this Co-Create project we teamed with Bayview staff to design and carry out resident surveys, analyze data, and share back results to support residents' voice in how their community will take shape. Other recent projects have provided strategic planning for the Dane County Bar Association, program development support for Families & Schools Together, and evaluation planning for Natural Circles of Support and the UniverCity Alliance.

For more information on Co-Create, please contact Amy Hilgendorf, Associate Director of Engaged Research at ahilgendorf@wisc.edu.



Coming Up...



Feb 7, 2:30pm -- Creative Placemaking Lunch and Learn, "Evaluation in Creative Placemaking"

- Explore the approaches and challenges to evaluation in creative placemaking
- Memorial Union Capitol View Room



Feb (exact date TBD) -- Solidarity Economy Lunch and Learn "Remaking the Economy - Who Will Profit?"

- Stay tuned for details to join a discussion focused on nonprofits and alternative economies



Feb and March (exact date TBD) -- Sector Studies Lunch and Learns

- Stay tuned for details on opportunities to join in discussions about the evolving roles and practices of nonprofit organizations and philanthropy in context



March 29 -- Special Lunch and Learn with CEO of the Skillman Foundation of Detroit, Tonya Allen

- We are excited that Ms. Allen will visit Madison in follow-up to last year's Annual Event on "Funding and Social Change" to share about her experiences and observations on this compelling topic



SAVE THE DATE! CommNS Annual Event "Where Mission Meets Advocacy" April 24, 2019

- Join us for our annual event featuring community leaders, scholars, and students from across Wisconsin

What's new at the CommNS? (Cont.)

Our affiliates and their projects continue to advance important "inquiry and action for social change." Our OPI team continues to support local efforts in Wisconsin to create equitable and healthy communities. Dr. Lori Bakken's new book on "Evaluation Practice for Collaborative Growth", Dr. Connie Flanagan's NSF-funded work on youth civic engagement Detroit, Dr. Carolina Sarmiento's continued work with community organizers in Santa Ana, CA and in Wisconsin, Dr. Jennifer Gaddis's forthcoming book on the national school lunch program, and Dr. Leah Horowitz's gathering of insights from tribal activists are just a few examples. I continue to be amazed by the talents of our students and inspired about the way that the CommNS can connect them to community wisdom to help prepare them to be the best kind of change agents in their future work. Please stay in touch in 2019! We look forward to working with you.

- Mary Beth Collins, Executive Director of the CommNS

Welcome our new Affiliates!

We are thrilled to welcome new Affiliates to the CommNS community!

- Kasey Keeler - Assistant Professor, Civil Society and Community Studies, UW Madison School of Human Ecology
- EG Nadeau - Co-Director of the Cooperative Society Project
- Molly Tomony - Undergraduate Art Therapy Program Coordinator, Edgewood College
- Alice Pauser - Founder and Director of the Demeter Foundation
- Dani Rischall - Executive Director of Chrysalis Inc
- Paul Mross - Co-Founder Yoga Accessible for All
- Laurel Lunde - Executive Director The Gathering Space
- Jason Kauffeld - Experience Guide and the Director of Nonprofit Relationships for Green Lake Conference Center
- Mari Gasiorowicz, Planner - Evaluation Technical Assistance at Public Health Madison and Dane County
- Troy David Washington - Assistant Lecturer and Post-Doctoral Fellow
- Helen Bader Institute for Nonprofit Management Department of Public and Nonprofit Administration University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- Abby Pansch - Associate of Strategic Growth at B-Lab

For more information on becoming a CommNS Affiliate, please contact Sara Ansell, sara.ansell@wisc.edu

Project Spotlight: Obesity Prevention Initiative

The Obesity Prevention Initiative works across the university and across Wisconsin to support local efforts to improve health. Through data for action, connections to a broad network of community and organizational leaders, and tailored local support, OPI leverages the power of local wisdom, grassroots activism, organizational resources, and academic partnership to build a healthier Wisconsin. The CommNS is thrilled to be a part of this important work.

Stay in touch with the CommNS!

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