Greetings, Friends and Collaborators,

We at the CommNS hope you are having a great summer! In the midst of summer fun, we’ve had a very productive season at the CommNS and are preparing for an impactful academic year.

We kicked off Summer 2019 with the 25th Annual “Fundraising and Development for Nonprofits Conference”. There were some special highlights in this anniversary year, which you can read about further in the “Bright Spots” section of this newsletter.

One of our major grant-funded, multi-disciplinary projects, the Obesity Prevention Initiative” is nearing the end of its 5-year term. Through this project we have been able to support community partners and their evaluative processes as they organize for healthier communities. The close of this project means some transitions for our team and opportunities to branch out with all that we have learned along the way. We are amazed by the impactful work of our community partners, WISDOM, the HEAL Coalition in Marathon County, Menikanaehkem and the Menominee Wellness Initiative in the Menominee Nation. We look forward to seeing where they take their efforts in the future.

This summer we have also prepared for and recruited for our very first Board of Visitors for the CommNS. We are so excited to engage this group of advisors and supporters, who bring perspective from various geographic areas and roles in the sector.

A whole world, quite literally, of learning and inspiration, has also been a focus, with some opportunities to connect with global colleagues in Guadalajara, MX; Aguadilla, PR; Rennes, FR; and across the African continent. This academic year, we’ll be further nurturing a set of “Wisco-to-the-World” plans and projects with some of these key global partners.

Don’t forget, you can still participate in our survey “Where Mission Meets Advocacy”, from our April 2019 event, see here. Save the date for our next annual event in 2020 focused on “Getting the Work Done: How To’s for Community and Nonprofit Efforts”!
Bright Spots at the CommNS

- We are excited to share that Dr. Lori Bakken has been named the Associate Chair to the SoHE Department of Civil Society and Community Studies and in this role will help support our work at the CommNS.
- We are delighted to welcome two (2) new faculty affiliates into our own CSCS Department this fall, Dr. Brian McInnes, an Dr. Mariaelena Huambachano! Dr. McInnes will serve as the new Faculty Fellow of the CommNS, and both of our new colleagues will help to lead a new Native Nations Initiative on campus.
- The CommNS and SoHE colleagues will be supporting UW's first Treaty Day Event, featuring a Distinguished Lecture by UCSC History Professor Dr. Amy Lonetree, on Tuesday, September 10th. This Event is in remembrance of the September 15, 1832 Treaty by which the US forced the Ho Chunk to cede the land that the UW has occupied since its founding.
- Our faculty affiliate Dr. Jennifer Gaddis's new book, The Labor of Lunch, will be published by the University of California press in November 2019!

Come See Us!

- UW South Madison Partnership Space Annual Community Celebration, September 12th, 5 pm to 7 pm
- The 22nd Conference on the Small City & Regional Community, UW-Stevens Point, October 17th
- Annual Madison Nonprofit Day, October 31st

The CommNS team will be sharing information at or presenting at each of these events -- hope to see some of you there too!

25th Annual Fundraising and Development Conference

We ended May on a high note with the 25th Annual Fundraising and Development for Nonprofits Conference! Organizational leaders and representatives from all over and all types of mission-based work joined us to learn from our outstanding faculty about how best to sustain and build the resources they need to do their work.

We celebrated the conference’s founder, Don Gray, and honored our first ever recipient of the Don Gray Leadership scholarship, Caroline Matkom, a 2019 grad of our Community and Nonprofit Leadership program and an outstanding example of all that our students can do now and for our collective future. The Morgridges were even there to share their wisdom. So good!

Stay in touch with the CommNS!

commns.sohe.wisc.edu
www.facebook.com/CommNS
Join our mailing list: thecommns@gmail.com