

## Community-Engaged Quarterly Series

Final Summary

June 2015

*The series is planned by the UR Student Bridge for Community Engagement Committee and supported by President Seligman's Office and the Institute for Innovative Education.*

**Background:** There is a clear warrant for synergy and consistency in how students, faculty, and staff are prepared for academically rigorous, community-engaged research, teaching, and service. The Student Bridge for Community Engagement Committee (Bridges) has planned an interactive speaker series focusing on key community issues in Rochester and Monroe County that address the need to prepare the UR community for community-engaged work. The series will be co-taught by community leaders, staff, and faculty. Emphasis will be placed on discussion between students, faculty, and community members.

**Community-Engagement Quarterly Series:** For the 2014-5 academic year, the BRIDGES committee completed the following collaborative, interdisciplinary events:

1. **The Second Annual Community Engagement Workshop** was presented on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. (Leader: Theresa Green, PhD, MBA, Center for Community Health URMC). This event ran from 11:00-3:00 and began with opening remarks from Peter Robinson, VP and COO of URMC. The purpose of the Workshop was to enhance student-community projects by introducing students to concepts underlying community based interventions, including effective principles of community engagement as well as development and evaluation of relevant projects that are evidence-based, measurable, and sustainable. Topics covered by the workshop include Principles of Effective Community Engagement presented by a panel of community leaders; Social Determinants of Health; Examples of Student Led Projects presented by students and their community partners; and Using and Contributing to the Evidence Base.

There were **115 total attendees** including 58 nursing students, 17 fourth year medical students, and 8 undergraduates. The attendees who completed an evaluation (38) scored all sessions "above average" to "excellent" on content and presentation skills, and most indicated that the material presented would "likely" be helpful in their program or career.

**Expenses** for the event totaled \$1195 (Tables \$160, Linens \$178, Set up \$210, parking \$60, CEL fee \$67 and food \$520) and a \$50 honorarium was offered to each of the four community panelists. Expenses were billed to the IIE funds.

2. **Community Engagement with K-12 Education: The Case of East High School** was the second of the series, held on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 11:00am-1:00 pm. (Leader: Connie Flahive, PhD, Warner Graduate School). This event provided an opportunity for university students, faculty and staff to learn about and discuss the University of Rochester's partnership with East High School to develop a comprehensive proposal for the University to serve as EPO (Educational Partner Organization) for East High School starting in the 2015-16 school year. Dean Raffaella Borasi of the University's Warner School of Education introduced the keynote speaker Dr. Stephen Uebbing, Professor in the Warner School of Education and former Superintendent of Canandaigua Schools. Dr. Uebbing provided an overview of the dilemma and the process for

engagement with East High as a proposal is being written. A panel presented current initiatives at East High followed by a robust question and answer period.

There were at least **40 attendees** including staff from the Kearn Center, 5 employees who work with high school students, 6 AmeriCorps members, 2 medical students and several other faculty and community members.

**Expenses** for this event were \$1166 (\$250 room fee and set up, \$70 technology fee, \$90 maintenance/clean up, \$700 for food) funded through the President's office.

3. **"Diversity & Inclusion Film Series: A Call for Dialogue and Action"** The BRIDGES group collaborated with the Office of Faculty Development and Diversity among others, to implement a 3-part film series prior to the April 17<sup>th</sup> Diversity Conference. Individuals from the medical center and River campuses volunteered to lead and organize the three events, which included the following films:
  - July '64 – February 24<sup>th</sup>
  - Fixed: The Science/Fiction of Human Enhancement – March 19<sup>th</sup>(focused on advancements for those with developmental disabilities)
  - Documented – April 9<sup>th</sup> (Jose Antonio Vargas was the key note speaker at the Diversity Conference and created this film based on his own experiences)

The first of the series was a viewing of the film, **July '64**, followed by a community conversation facilitated by Carvin Eison, the director of the film. Stan Byrd provided the opening remarks for the session, which took place on a very cold afternoon on February 24<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-6:00 pm in the Ryan Case Method Room at the URM. There were **17 attendees**, and although we were disappointed at the turnout, the session was very engaging and evaluations were very positive, with attendees stating that it was a "powerful" and very educational. Attendees included faculty, staff, students, and community members. **Expenses** totaled \$845.75 (speaker honorarium, parking passes, refreshments, and environmental clean-up). Promotion was donated, and there was no charge for media support.

As a follow-up to the Diversity & Inclusion Film Series, the Bridges Committee organized a workshop at the Diversity Conference titled, **"The Power of Film and Media on Issues of Social Justice."** Carvin Eison facilitated a workshop panel, which consisted of Elissa Orlando (WXXI), Amen Ptah (Central Library of Rochester ImagineYOU teen digital media program, and Dr. Ann Marie White (Office of Mental Health Promotion, Department of Psychiatry). Approximately **30-40 people attended** this workshop.

4. **"Urban Design and Community Engagement"** was the final event in the series, and was held at the University's Memorial Art Gallery on Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. This panel discussion explored the ways in which urban design can create spaces that build community and lead to desirable community outcomes, and how the built environment shapes the community in which we live—not just physically, but socially and demographically. How can it influence and change what happens in our community, and what goes on there, such as reducing crime, promoting physical activity and improving community health? The panel showcased two specific design projects: the El Camino Trail at Conkey Park and the Centennial Sculpture Park at the Memorial Art Gallery. Panelists included Gay Mills, Executive Director, Genesee Land Trust; Dawn Bird, Project Hope Community Organizer with the Ibero-American

Development Corporation; Margie Searl, Chief Curator (retired), Memorial Art Gallery; and Jim McIntosh, City Engineer for the City of Rochester. The panel was moderated by University Vice-President Paul Burgett.

The **audience of 45 people** included undergraduate students in the Rochester Urban Fellows program; recent graduates serving as Americorps\*VISTA members with the Rochester Youth Year Fellowship program; community members who serve as supervisors for these students; and other University faculty and staff members. A light breakfast buffet was served, and **expenses for the event totaled \$771**, including the catering charges; the MAG waived its customary charges for the space rental and technical support fees. The event was sponsored by the President's office. The event was organized by the Rochester Center for Community Leadership.

#### **Highlights of the Series:**

- Over 260 students, faculty, staff and community members attended these 4 events and learned about effective community engagement in several disciplines.
- Interdisciplinary collaboration was at its finest with the 4 events of the series focusing on UR Medicine and health, Warner School and education, River Campus and diversity, and The MAG and Urban Design and community.
- Each event included extensive discussion among UR students/faculty/staff and community members for bi-directional learning and to model community engagement for attendees
- The series was *under budget* and costs totaled approximately \$4,000 for over 13 hours of interdisciplinary learning about community health.

Thank you so much to President Seligman's Office and the Institute for Innovative Education for your continued support. These events have been outstanding and would not have been possible without your shared resources. More information on any of these events is available if needed. The BRIDGES group looks forward to a continued relationship as we expand effective community engagement at the University of Rochester.