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## Engaged University Newsletter

### June 2007

#### Contact Us

Address:  
The Engaged University  
1241 Tawes Fine Arts  
Building  
University of Maryland,  
College Park, MD 20742

Phone:  
301-405-2285

E-mail:  
euinfo@umd.edu

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## Related Links

Partnership Grant Programs at other universities

[University of California](#)

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## Upcoming Events

### Summer Jam!

July 6, 6:30-8:30pm  
Hyattsville Municipal Building  
4310 Gallatin Street  
Hyattsville, MD

### Hyattsville City Council Meeting

July 9, 8:00pm  
Hyattsville Municipal Building  
4310 Gallatin Street  
Hyattsville, MD

### North Brentwood Citizens' Association Meeting

July 9, 7:30pm  
North Brentwood Community Center  
4012 Webster Street  
North Brentwood, MD

### Farmers Market

Every Thursday  
3:00-7:00pm  
4650 Queensbury Road  
Riverdale Park, MD

## University/Community Partnerships

By [Margaret Morgan-Hubbard, Director](#)

In December 2006, the University of Maryland launched the Community Partners Program (CPP), a new "seed grant" program designed to encourage and fund University/community partnerships. Created by the Provost, the Vice President for University Relations, and key University trustees, CPP embodies the University's commitment to Prince George's County and is one key component of a number of diverse community engagement efforts.

The staff of the Engaged University, who solicit and review the initial Letters of Inquiry, administer the CPP. A six-member CPP Advisory Board reviews the proposals and selects the grant recipients. The Community Engagement Board of Advisors, made up of University trustees and other key community partners, endorses the selection of the grants.

Twenty-four Letters of Inquiry were received for this first grant cycle. Thirteen applicants were invited to submit full proposals. From this pool, the Advisory Committee selected three projects for funding totaling \$18,650 in grants. A second CPP grant cycle will begin in Fall 2007. Engaged University staff anticipate offering workshops for potential applicants at the start of the Fall semester.

Each of the projects (described below) is committed to collaboration, learning, effectiveness, sustainability, and creativity.

**Dr. Jerry Lee Lewis, Executive Director, Academic Achievement Programs, UMCP;**  
**Ms. Beverly Pariser-Foster and Ms. Silvia Hoke, International Student Counseling Office, Prince George's County Public Schools:**

This project will support an Annual Latino College Fair to help underserved Latino students and their families navigate the postsecondary admissions and financial aid processes. The Educational Opportunities Center (EOC) in Academic Achievement Programs will partner with the County's International Student Counseling Office (ISCO) to conduct

**Hyattsville Farmers Market**  
Every Tuesday, 2:00-6:00pm  
Queens Chapel Town Center  
(Corner of Queens Chapel Road &  
Hamilton Street, behind shopping  
center)  
Hyattsville, MD

targeted outreach to County high schools with the highest Latino populations. The partners will also offer workshops throughout the year on study skills, planning and preparation for standardized assessment tests, and financial aid.

Campus partner, Dr. Jerry Lee Lewis, has invested more than 30 years in increasing County youth's access to post-secondary education. He believes that this project is critical because "there are now many ESL students in the County and they need to be well educated if we want to improve our economic infrastructure and the quality of life for all."

**Dr. Bo Xie, Assistant Professor  
College of Information Studies, UMCP;  
Ms. Maralita L. Freeny, Director,  
Prince George's County Memorial Library System:**

This partnership between The College of Information Studies and the Hyattsville Branch of the Prince George's County Memorial Library system will develop a curriculum that integrates information technology and health literacy for older adult patrons of the Hyattsville branch of the County library system. It will train local seniors to use the Internet to access health information and to assist others to acquire needed information. The long-term goal is to cultivate a cadre of older adults who can administer the same training to their peers at other public library branches.

Assistant Professor, Dr. Bo Xie, the campus partner, says that the project will help local public libraries "better serve the community by improving e-health literacy, lifelong learning, and empowerment of older adults, and demonstrates the interest and ability of the College of Information Studies to collaborate with local organizations."

**Ms. Johnna Schmidt, Director  
Jimenez-Porter Writers' House, UMCP;  
Ms. Rebecca Roberts, ESOL Teacher,  
Northwestern High School  
Other Partners: Hyattsville Community Development  
Corporation; Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, UMCP:**

This project, named "Postcards from My Country," brings students from the Jimenez-Porter Writers' House together with Northwestern High School ESOL students using the framework of service learning. As partners and mentors, the University and high school students will employ language and creative writing to explore identity, community, and the immigrant experience.

Ms. Johnna Schmidt, Director, Jimenez-Porter Writers' House, the campus partner, says that the pilot of this project was a great success and she looks forward to full implementation. "All involved reported this program to be important to their personal growth and some called it life-changing. They loved the feeling that their skills as poets and writers are being put to a use that benefits the greater community," she explains. ESL students at NWHs were able to "process important life issues through their poetry and 'find their feet' in their new community. One unexpected benefit is that student's social ties with each other are deepened dramatically as they share their stories with each other."



## Campus and Community Profiles

By Ramya Punnoose, Program Assistant

In May, the first three projects were selected for funding by the Community Partners Program. A group of six distinguished individuals, equally representing the campus and the community, made up the program's Advisory Committee. After the initial screening of 24 Letters of Inquiry by the Engaged University staff, the Advisory Committee carefully examined 13 full proposals and selected the final three.

For our Campus and Community Profiles section of the newsletter this month, we decided to highlight the six members of the CPP Advisory Committee. The comments that follow are drawn from quotes from each member, focusing on their thoughts about the CPP program's benefits to the campus and community, as well as why they chose to serve on the committee.

### CPP Advisory Committee--Campus Representatives

**Mr. Andre Nottingham, Associate Director, Educational Opportunity Center, Academic Achievement Programs, UMCP:** The CPP is an excellent outreach vehicle that provides departments, faculty, students and staff with an incentive to work with community organizations. I have been involved with Margaret Morgan-Hubbard, Director of the Engaged University on a number of Engaged University initiatives since its inception, and it was a natural extension of our ongoing collaboration to serve on the Advisory Committee. CPP provides an excellent opportunity to demonstrate how the University can benefit the greater community. The effort epitomizes what the Engaged University is all about.



**Dr. Marsha Guenzler-Stevens, Director of Activities & Campus Programs, Associate Director, Stamp Student Union, UMCP:**

Finding new ways to stimulate and support partnerships is one of the hallmarks of the new CPP. I served on the Advisory Committee because I believe that there are natural partnerships that regularly emerge between the community and the University. I am encouraged daily by the good work done by my colleagues in the Community Service Learning area every day to support student engagement partnerships. I want to make sure we continue to find new and creative ways to support collaborations that benefit all involved. Great thinking, research, and practice are all possible when great minds from the community come together with those on campus.

**Dr. Rob Waters, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, Office of the Provost, UMCP:** I think the CPP funded some great projects this round that engage the campus with Prince George's County community. It is exciting to see these first projects get funded because they will benefit local residents and encourage more activity between campus and community experts. I chose to serve on the Advisory Committee because I believe that the University of Maryland can do more in Prince George's County and I wanted to be a part of that process. It is a good opportunity to contribute and help the great people who live, work and play in nearby communities.

#### **CPP Advisory Committee--Community Representatives**

**Ms. Mary Dudley, Director, Community Relations & Volunteers, Doctors Community Hospital:** The CPP is a great way to connect different generations, by students working alongside older citizens to provide and receive services and to help future generations better understand community services and what it takes for them to be truly effective. I decided to join the Advisory Committee because I have been working on Volunteer & Community Service programs in Prince George's County for over 20 years and I felt that that my experience would be helpful in the granting process. I was delighted to have the opportunity to actually help distribute resources to community projects to do good work.

**Ms. Barbara Goliday, Director, Community Affairs, Wachovia Bank:** The CPP is an excellent outreach tool that serves to connect the university to the surrounding community. By using the university's vast knowledge and resources, the program supports collaboration with neighbors and non-profits to address local needs and, ultimately, improve the quality of life in Prince George's County. As a resident of Prince George's County, I am honored to serve on a committee that has the ability to make a

profound difference in the community.

**Ms. Karen Fitzgerald, Program Officer, Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation:** By encouraging collaboration between the University of Maryland and nonprofit organizations in its surrounding community, the CPP will help to strengthen neighborhoods and meet the needs of people in Prince George's County. I decided to serve on the Advisory Committee because I was wanted to learn more about the University of Maryland and Prince George's County. I also felt that my experience as a grant maker at the Meyer Foundation could help to launch the Community Partners Program.

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### **Welcome Jodi!**

**By Genevieve Villamora, Assistant Director**

On June 18, the Engaged University welcomed the newest addition to our staff, Jodi Balis. Jodi comes to the EU through our partnership with the Maryland Food Stamp Nutrition Education (FSNE) program, which provides nutrition education about healthy food choices, physical activity, food preparation



and other skills to low income individuals and families. As the Engaged University's FSNE Project Leader/Community Nutrition Educator, Jodi designs, develops and manages our nutrition education programs, with a focus on working in public schools in northern Prince George's County. She also collaborates with our

Community Gardening Educators - Vinnie Bevivino and Kristen Spoales - to oversee our growing number of school and community garden projects.

Jodi recently moved to Maryland from St. Louis Missouri, where she worked as a nutrition education manager at a local food bank, teaching cooking skills and nutrition to low income communities. Jodi strives to raise awareness about the cultural, historical, and environmental aspects of food as the means to promote healthful eating. Her hobbies include doing yoga, cooking, taking walks with her husband, and checking out local farmer's markets.

We warmly welcome Jodi to our dedicated team of staff members, and hope that you have a chance to meet her yourself sometime soon!

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## Think Globally, Grow (and Eat) Locally

By Vinnie Bevivino, Community Gardening Educator

Youth participants, community volunteers and Engaged University staff members have been hard at work for months in the Master Peace Community Garden. Now that work is having a bountiful payoff. Every Thursday since May 31st, we have been selling surplus harvest from the Master Peace garden at the Riverdale Farmers Market alongside many other local farmers.



The market serves as an important entrepreneurial learning opportunity for the students from William Wirt Middle School who work in the garden. Our stand at the Riverdale market also provides a source of income that can be reinvested back into the garden, adding to the project's sustainability. By involving the students in every step along the way - from planting seedlings to selling at the market - they can more easily make the connections between the different parts of a food system. They meet local farmers who support themselves through local agriculture and provide the community with a supply of healthy, fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables.

The Riverdale Farmer's Market is located at 4650 Queensbury Road in Riverdale Park and takes place every Thursday from 3:00-7:00pm. We are currently selling seedlings, cooking greens and root vegetables. Soon we will expand our offerings to tomatoes, peppers, squash and herbs, as they become available. If you are interested in volunteering in the garden on Thursdays in preparation for market, or for general garden maintenance on other days, contact me at [bevivino@umd.edu](mailto:bevivino@umd.edu). See you at the market!



## Mural Unveiling at William Wirt

## Middle School; Community Announcement of CPP Grantees

By Genevieve Villamora, Assistant Director



This spring, students from the University of Maryland, College Park and William Wirt Middle School (WWMS) worked together to design and paint a mural. The project was made possible through support from the ArtVantage program of the Maryland State Arts Council.

Join us on July 24 for the unveiling of the students' creation, which will be permanently displayed on the front facade of WWMS. At the event, we will also announce the first round of CPP grants to members of the local community.

Tuesday, July 24 - 12:00-1:00pm  
William Wirt Middle School  
62nd Place and Tuckerman  
Riverdale, Maryland

For more information, contact Genevieve Villamora at 301-405-2285 or via email at [gvillamo@umd.edu](mailto:gvillamo@umd.edu)

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