
RCP Recognized for Excellence and Innovation in Graduate Education

The Resilient Communities Project (RCP) has been selected as the 2015 recipient of the MAGS/ETS Excellence and Innovation in Graduate Education Award. Jointly sponsored by the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) and Educational Testing Service (ETS), this annual award is given to a MAGS member institution in recognition of outstanding contributions to domestic and international graduate education at both the graduate school and program levels.

"We're honored to receive this recognition," said Carissa Slotterback, director of RCP and director of research engagement in the Office of the Vice President for Research at the University of Minnesota. "It has been our great pleasure to support so many graduate students in engaged learning opportunities that advance community sustainability."

RCP was nominated for the award by Henning Schroeder, Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Minnesota. Schroeder commended the program as "a shining example of the great things our faculty, students, and staff can achieve when disciplinary boundaries disappear" and possibly "the gold standard for advancing community sustainability practices while incorporating community engagement into the fabric of any university."

"The Resilient Communities Project is a model for promoting greater collaboration and engagement across disciplines," added Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Karen Hanson, in a letter supporting the nomination. "[RCP's] innovative approach not only provides sustainability solutions for our partner communities, but also enhances our curriculum with

interdisciplinary methods that are helping our students to develop the knowledge, skills, and agility that they will need as tomorrow's innovators, life-long learners, and global citizens."

RCP received the award at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools on April 16 in St. Louis. The award includes a certificate and a \$2,500 prize that will be used to support the RCP program.

Past recipients of the MAGS/ETS Excellence and Innovation in Graduate Education Award include Miami University's Dublin School Leadership Program (2014), Loyola University Chicago's Mastering The Humanities: Growing, Diversifying, and Sustaining Humanities Education program (2013), and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's Transforming the Illinois Graduate Education Pathway program (2012).

Program and Staff Updates

The Resilient Communities Project is pleased to announce that **Carver County** has been selected as its partner community for the 2015–2016 academic year. The partnership will bring the expertise of dozens of faculty and hundreds of graduate and professional students at the University of Minnesota to more than 30 sustainability-related projects identified by Carver County and its partners, which include the Carver County Community Development Agency; SouthWest Transit; Independent School District 112; and the Cities of Victoria, Chaska, and Watertown. For more information about the partnership, see the announcement on page 10.

RCP was selected as the 2015 recipient of the **Excellence and Innovation in Graduate Education Award** from the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) and Educational Testing Service. This annual award is given to a MAGS member institution



Jonathan Miller

The Resilient Communities Project hosted the Fourth Annual Sustainable City Year Conference at the University of Minnesota. The Knight Foundation and the University of Minnesota Office for Public Engagement sponsored this year's conference.