

OUTREACH INCENTIVE GRANT FUNDING: END-OF-YEAR PROJECT REPORT

Title of Proposal: Tennessee Sustainability Coordination Planning and Engagement

our Name: Brad Collett, Gale Fulton, Valerie Friedmann Project Date:1/6/2014-5/30/014

Additional project support received from other university or external sources:

Source	Amount	Title
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None

Please use this sheet to answer each of the following questions about your project (1-2 pp total)

1. **ASSESSMENT:** How did this project document or assess its engagement with the community?

Feedback from the T-SCaPE Summit participants regarding the event has been solicited and will be compiled and analyzed to shape future agendas, meetings, and engagement modes between the UT Landscape Architecture programs and these community partners. We are also in the process of establishing a new wiki workspace that will facilitate ongoing communication and collaboration amongst the participants.

2. **PARTNERSHIP/RECIPROCITY:** How did the university and community work together?

University participants and community partners collaborated closely over the entire course of this project. Through the early stages of project scoping and inventorying of sustainable planning activities across the state, connections were established between the university and government offices, planning agencies, planning and design professionals, and other related organizations across the state. University participants quickly established a connection and relationship with the leadership of the Tennessee Region's Roundtable Network (TNRRN) that was leveraged to establish a target audience for the T-SCaPE Summit.

Ten planning and community development leaders representing communities across the state visited with four university participants from three campus units on campus in late May. The agenda of the two-day summit focused on facilitating a dialogue regarding trends, issues, best practices, and future collaboration opportunities.

3. **BENEFITS:** What were the benefits (University/community) of this partnership?

External relationships formed through the summit and preparatory research have already led to promising opportunities for future collaborations and the identification of potential external funding sources. These include work-study opportunity for students in support of TNRRN initiatives, community-engaged coursework, and funded project opportunities for the Landscape Architecture Program's Environmental Design Lab. Emergent themes and trends identified during the project will be considered during future strategic planning and curriculum development conversations within the program.

The summit also proved to be an effective venue through which to promote the university's new Smart Communities Initiative (SCI) to a state-wide audience. This segment of the agenda generated much discussion and has begun a mutually beneficial dialogue and feedback loop regarding the scope, structure, and outcomes of the initiative. Future SCI partner communities may be discovered because of these relationships.

The project also helped cultivate new relationships between the Landscape Architecture Program and allied units across the university, including the Office of Service Learning, Political Science/Baker Center, and Arts and Sciences/Sustainability

4. **SHARED DECISION-MAKING:** Did the community have a "voice" or role for input into this project?

The principal objective of this project, its background research, and the summit itself was to hear the voice of the community. Planning projects studied as part of preparatory research represent the voice of the community, as do the ten planning and community development leaders who attended May's summit. Additionally,

representatives from the TNRRN worked with university participants to build a mutually beneficial agenda for the summit.

5. **SCHOLARSHIP:** Are there any examples of faculty scholarship that will be informed by this project?

Relationships formed through the summit and preparatory research have already led to promising opportunities for future collaborations. These include work-study opportunity for students in support of TNRRN initiatives, community-engaged coursework, and funded research and engagement opportunities for the Landscape Architecture Program's Environmental Design Lab.

6. **CONCLUSIONS:** What conclusions and best practices can be drawn from the partnership?

1. Communities across the State of Tennessee will benefit from the collaborative infrastructure that is under development across regions and jurisdictional lines through the Tennessee Regions Roundtable Network, including:
 - a. Dissemination of best practices literature, case studies
 - b. A developing web resource for data and information sharing
 - c. A developing network of planners, community developers, and community organizers
2. Shared planning and community development challenges across the state include:
 - a. The management of relationships and equity of resources available to urban and rural communities
 - b. Infrastructure
 - i. Transportation choices
 - ii. Broadband access in rural communities
 - iii. Educational + workforce training for the new economy
 - iv. Water management + Green Infrastructure
 - c. Quality Growth
 - i. Regulatory and technical capacity to support/facilitate infill and redevelopment
 - ii. Housing choices, affordability
 - d. Open space stewardship
 - i. Tourism and economic development
 - e. Community development and capacity building
 - f. Economic development
3. The expertise and capacity of University programs, including Landscape Architecture, align well with the challenges and technical assistance needs of communities across the state, opening opportunities for future engagement projects and research
4. In spite of open invitation at the conception of TNRRN, Tri Cities, Eastern Plateau (Cookville, Crossville), and Upper West TN have not participated, suggesting capacity challenges in these regions

7. **FUTURE PLANS:** What are the future plans for this partnership?

Relationships and partnerships forged through the TSCaPE project will continue to be cultivated so as to identify and execute mutually beneficial, meaningful collaboration opportunities. These opportunities will emphasize community engagement, fulfilling capacity gaps and technical assistance needs of communities while enhancing students' educational experiences and faculty research programs. Opportunities already identified include:

1. Student participation as intern/work study with TNRRN to
 - a. enhance graphic and infographic elements of TNRRN website
 - b. participate in case study development/research of state planning/design best practices
2. Environmental Design Lab research opportunities
 - a. Robertson County green infrastructure, open space, tourism plan
3. Smart Communities Initiative
 - a. Program scope, structure advising
 - b. RFP circulation
 - c. Community proposal building

Budget revision
rec'd June 30, 2014

Budget Sheet for
ACADEMIC OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT INCENTIVE GRANT
2013-2014

Main Contact Name: Brad Collett

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Project Title: Tennessee Sustainability Coordination Planning and Engagement (T-SCaPE)

Proposed Budget:

ITEM	AMOUNT
T-SCaPE Summit Guest Hospitality - Lodging	\$580.00
T-SCaPE Summit Guest Hospitality - Meals and Refreshments	\$965.00
TOTAL	\$1,545.00

NOTE:
Please review all budget and accounting requirements.
Proposals submitted without line-item budgets will not be
considered.

