

Home

Highlights

Dates

Resources / Articles

Funding / Grants

Other Opportunities

CaRDI Communiqué

Highlights

- Media Release: Cornell institute launches publications, seminars, and trainings focused on community development issues
- CaRDI Publications

Dates

- Coordinating Health Care: Your input sought at "People First" coordinating care forums
- 1500 CEO's descend on Buffalo Niagara in September, 2007
- Agribusiness Economic Outlook Conference – December 18

Resources / Articles

- The Mainstreet Economist
- Institute for Public Issues Education
- CCE-Ontario County Announces the Release of a New Internet-based Resource - "Ontario County's Agriculture"

Funding / Grants

- NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Grant Program
- The Farm, Apple and Cuisine Trail Designation Program

Other Opportunities

- Invitation to Join the NERCRD Regional Entrepreneurship Resource Team



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ISSUE 3 / JUNE 2007

Home

Highlights

Dates

Resources / Articles

Funding / Grants

Other Opportunities

Highlights

Cornell institute launches publications, seminars, and trainings focused on community development issues

By Aaron Goldwebber

ITHACA, N.Y. — Children's health. Immigration. Land use conflict. Unemployment. These issues are as real in rural communities with populations of 800 as they are in a city of 8 million. Faced with a shrinking tax base and infrastructure a fraction of the size of their urban counterparts, rural New York municipalities struggle to maintain existing services and establish new ones. State and local policymakers need up-to-date information in order to make the most of limited resources and to respond more successfully to rapidly changing social and economic conditions.

Cornell University's Community and Rural Development Institute (CaRDI) is answering this need for information with three new publications, a continuing seminar series, and training opportunities. The resources target elected officials and other community leaders and cover many hot topics including: agriculture, food, and community development; land use and landscape management; and social and economic trends and analysis.

"The publications are a concrete way for us to reach a wide range of audiences," says Rod Howe, CaRDI's executive director. "They provide a vehicle for us to disseminate useful research-based information on topics important to New Yorkers, and to highlight the interrelationship between applied research, policy formation, and outreach."

[Read the whole article in the Cornell Chronicle...](#)

CaRDI Publications

On May 1st, Issue #5 of our *Rural New York Minute* series was released, entitled "**Rural New Yorkers' Health: It isn't just about Health Insurance**," by Robin M. Blakely & Kosali I. Simon, Cornell University.

We will release our 6th issue on June 1st entitled "**What does "Community" mean to New Yorkers?**" by Robin M Blakely & David L. Brown.

On May 15th, Issue #5 of our *Research & Policy Brief Series* was released, entitled "**Farm-to-School Initiatives Gaining Ground in NYS**," by Jennifer Wilkins, Duncan Hilchey, and Heidi Mouillesseaux-Kunzman, Cornell University.

We will release our 6th issues on June 15th entitled "**NYS Counties Losing or Gaining Metro Status: So What?**", by David L. Brown and Whitney Mauer, Cornell University.

All of our publications are available on the CaRDI website at
<http://www.cardi.cornell.edu>.

ISSUE 3 / JUNE 2007

Home

Highlights

Dates

Resources / Articles

Funding / Grants

Other Opportunities

Dates

Speak Out! Your input sought at "People First" coordinating care forums

Four regional community forums will be held to seek input on how to improve quality, access to resources and coordination of services across state health agencies. The Commissioners of the NYS Department of Health (DOH), the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS), the Office of Mental Health (OMH) and the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) will attend each forum. This is your opportunity to shape the future delivery of care in New York and inform Governor Spitzer's efforts to create a person-centered health care system.

Forums will be held:

June 6 - New York City
June 19 - Buffalo
June 20 - Syracuse
July 13 - Plattsburgh

Seating will be on a first come, first served basis. Forums will be broadcast live at each of the participating state agency websites.

View the entire press release, meeting details (including directions to the New Paltz site) and comment cards at this link:

http://www.nyhealth.gov/events/listening_forums/

Dates - 1500 CEO's descend on Buffalo Niagara in September, 2007

Our community enthusiastically awaits the opportunity to have you join us here in New York State on September 12, 13 and 14, 2007 for an economic development forum that will acquaint you with our area's distinctive natural resources and numerous assets. Erie and Niagara counties offer many benefits to companies considering expanding or relocating here.

<http://www.explorebuffaloniagara.com/>

Save the Date - Agribusiness Economic Outlook Conference - December 18

Please mark your calendar for the annual Agribusiness Economic Outlook Conference. It is Tuesday, December 18, 2007, in the David L. Call Alumni Auditorium, Kennedy Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. Registration and refreshments are at 9:00 a.m., the program is 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Over the next several months, more details will be posted at the website:

http://aem.cornell.edu/outreach/conferences/economic_outlook.

ISSUE 3 / JUNE 2007

Resources / Articles

Home

Highlights

Dates

Resources / Articles

Funding / Grants

Other Opportunities

The Mainstreet Economist

As strong ethanol demand fuels a sharp rise in crop prices, rural America is cautiously optimistic. But the rural optimism for 2007 is tinged with uncertainty, as authors Jason Henderson and Maria Akers explore in "Will the Rebound in Farm Financial Conditions Continue?"

This latest edition of the Main Street Economist is available at

<http://www.kansascityfed.org/RegionalAffairs/mainstreet/MainStMain.htm>.

Institute for Public Issues Education

The Institute for Public Issues Education (IPIE) is being created to provide a new framework for public policy education. IPIE will provide resources, support and professional development for Land Grant university and Extension professionals and faculty to create opportunities for informed dialogue of public issues. IPIE will also assist leaders in NGOs, community, government and business to address public issues that are important in their communities.

For more than 50 years Farm Foundation, through its National Public Policy Education Conferences, has promoted public policy education. These conferences were opportunities for public policy educators, often Extension public policy specialists, to increase their understanding of issues and gain tools to use in their work. Changes in Extension staffing and budgets, as well as the increasingly multi-faceted nature of public policy issues in agriculture and the food system necessitate a new approach to providing tools and professional development for public policy educators.

The mission of IPIE is to build the capacity of Land Grant university and Extension educators to manage and support complex controversial public issues; to encourage informed participation in public conflicts and public issues development; to encourage education around complex public issues, including policy alternatives and their consequences; to build coalitions for analysis and discovery; and to engage the Land Grant and Extension system and others in public issues education.

A [summary of IPIE](#) is posted on the Farm Foundation Web site, www.farmfoundation.org.

For more information, contact [Steve Halbrook](#), Vice President, Farm Foundation.

CCE-Ontario County Announces the Release of a New Internet-based Resource - "Ontario County's Agriculture"

This comprehensive website is intended for public use to view agritourism destinations; promote local food access and restaurants that serve local food; highlight agricultural resources; and enlighten visitors with agriculture education quizzes, photos, and farm scenery interpretation inn Ontario County.

<http://www.fingerlakesag.com/>

ISSUE 3 / JUNE 2007

Home

Highlights

Dates

Resources / Articles

Funding / Grants

Other Opportunities

Funding, Grant and Other Opportunities

NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Grant Program

The NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation has announced that municipalities and nonprofit organizations with an ownership interest in parks, historic properties, and heritage areas may apply for funds under Title 9 of the Environmental Protection Act of 1993 for the acquisition, development, and improvement of these properties. In addition, municipalities may apply for funds under the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund for acquisition and development of outdoor recreation facilities. This is a matching grant program; therefore, grant recipients are expected to provide a 50 percent match. The deadline to apply is June 29, 2007.

For more information: visit <http://www.nysparks.com/grants> or contact T. Kevin Burns, Chief of Grants, Bureau of Grants Management, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 1, 16th Floor, Albany, NY 12238; phone (518) 474-0427; fax (518) 486-7377.

The Farm, Apple and Cuisine Trail Designation

The Farm, Apple and Cuisine Trail Designation Program promotes area agricultural opportunities and allows for 10 farm trails, 7 apple trails and 5 cuisine trails to be designated in the State. The trails must be made up of farm or food businesses that are in close proximity to each other, market their products in a cooperative manner, and utilize a map or highway signs to direct patrons to their respective operations. A farm trail would consist of producers offering a variety of farm and food products, an apple trail would consist of solely apple growers selling fresh or processed fruit products, and a cuisine trail would entail food producers or outlets that market unusual or hard to find farm and food products that are prepared with local products.

To apply to the New York State Farm, Apple and Cuisine Trail Designation Program, visit www.agmkt.state.ny.us.

Invitation to Join the NERCRD Regional Entrepreneurship Resource Team

If you are engaged, or have an active interest in entrepreneurship-related activities, the Northeast Regional Center would like to invite you to join our regional entrepreneurship resource team. This team is not limited to land grant faculty/Extension educators. Community college faculty, government organizations, nonprofit groups, foundations, small business representatives, entrepreneurs, community leaders, etc., are all invited to join this important regional team.

The form for you to complete can be found at:

<http://nercrd.psu.edu/EntreCOP/NERCRDEntrepTeamForm.htm>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the NERCRD office at nercrd@psu.edu.