



Cornell University
Community & Rural
Development Institute (CaRDI)

Department of Development Sociology
118 Warren Hall
Ithaca, New York 14853-4203
t. 607.255.9510
f. 607.255.2231
<http://www.cardi.cornell.edu>

PRESS RELEASE

Cornell's Community and Rural Development Institute (CaRDI) has named the recipient of its 2008 David J. Allee and Paul R. Eberts Community and Economic Vitality Award.

Recipients are recognized for innovative research, extension and/or teaching projects. These awards are intended to honor our colleagues, to inspire others to consider adopting the successful elements of their work, and to encourage recognition of Cornell programs that develop innovative solutions to community issues.

This year, the award is being presented to Maralyn Edid, Senior Extension Associate for Workforce, Industry and Economic Development in the School of Industrial and Labor Relations.

Maralyn Edid has been associated with the Extension Division of Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations since June 1990. In her position as a Senior Extension Associate, Maralyn undertakes research and writing projects that focus on various aspects of workforce and economic development. During her long tenure at ILR, Maralyn has written about farmworker collective bargaining and has joined colleagues from CALS and Human Ecology on projects concerning conflict resolution in rural communities. She has a long affiliation with CaRDI.

Maralyn is being honored for her work with the Onondaga County Office of Economic Development in examining whether the growing immigrant/refugee population in Syracuse satisfies local employers' demand for labor. This work was partially supported with funding from Cornell's Economic Development Administration (EDA) University Center. The connection with the EDA University Center was made via Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County. From her research, Maralyn wrote a report, *Bridging the Gap: Training Needs Assessment of the Immigrant Workforce in Onondaga County, NY*, which identified language, transportation and childcare as the primary barriers to immigrant employment in the area, supplementing her interview findings with national, state and local data.

The report resulted in the Greater Syracuse Chamber of Commerce securing a \$500,000 NYS Department of Labor grant for a successful contextual English as a Second Language pilot program offered by six local employers and directed by the Chamber. In addition, the Onondaga County Industrial Development Agency (OCIDA) has committed to work toward the establishment of a childcare center requested by a cluster of manufacturing and commercial businesses, which will encourage the development of additional centers. Further, the OCIDA granted the Cornell ILR School a grant for \$22,000 for 2008-9 to continue research on the transportation needs of entry-level workers traveling to suburban-based employers; the first phase of this project, completed in June 2008, was also partially funded by the EDA University Center. Maralyn is working on the reverse transportation projects with ILR colleague Yael Levitte.

The David J. Allee and Paul R. Eberts Community and Economic Vitality Award will be presented to Ms. Edid at the Community and Rural Development Institute's Future of Rural New York Seminar on November 21, 2008 on the Cornell University campus. The focus of that seminar will be transportation as a critical component of community and economic development.