

**MSU Center for Community and Economic Development  
and  
Kalamazoo College  
present a**

## **Special 2009 Annual Institute**

### **SESSION AGENDA**

**Innovating and Re-inventing Strong Michigan Communities:  
Co-Learning to Effect Transformational Change**

Hannah Community Center  
819 Abbott Rd.  
(5 blocks north of Grand River Avenue)  
East Lansing, MI 48823

**Wednesday, October 21, 2009  
1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.**

## Introduction

1:00-1:15

Rex LaMore, Director, Michigan State University Center for Community and Economic Development and MSU's Urban and Regional Planning Program.

- Welcome and Overview of the Institute and 2009 Institute.

## The Impacts of the Global Downturn on Michigan Communities

1:15-2:15

**Panel on Current conditions of public, private, education (K-12), and nonprofit sectors in Michigan communities.**

- Arnold Weinfeld, Michigan Municipal League.
- John Austin, Michigan State Board of Education.
- Sharon Parks, Michigan League for Human Services.
- Edward Donovan, Genesee Regional Chamber of Commerce.

*The goal of the panel is to help participants understand the impacts of the downturn on the sectors the panelists represent. Each panelist will have 10 minutes to discuss the specific conditions on the ground.*

2:15-2:45

**Small Group discussions on panel presentations.**

Participants engage in table-based discussion (6-8 per table).

- Introductions by each person and brief comments on what resonated in the panel presentations with their own understanding of the impacts of the downturn on their community.
- Each table comes up with a list of 3 of the most worrisome impacts of the downturn on Michigan communities.

*The goals of the small group discussion are to 1) have participants engage with each other and with the content of the panel by linking it to what is happening in their own communities, and 2) capture some of their local knowledge and experience.*

2:45-2:55

**BREAK** (participants encouraged to peruse other tables' flipcharts)

## Changing Our Mindset

2:55-3:15

**The New Normal.** Presentation by Hannah McKinney, Professor of Economics and Business at Kalamazoo College.

*The goal of this presentation is to build upon the picture of the relatively dismal current state of Michigan communities.*

- 3:15-3:30**      **The New Normal, Unscripted Problems, and Outdated Assumptions.** Presentation by Kiran Cunningham, Professor of Anthropology at Kalamazoo College.
- The goal of this presentation is to help participants understand the process of transformative learning as a tool for changing our mindsets.*
- 3:30-4:00**      **Small group work identifying how old assumptions continue to be played out in participants' communities and why they are problematic.**
- Participants identify assumptions about:  
a) Resources (e.g. tax revenues always increase), and b) The way the community operates (e.g. organizations can function autonomously). That is, what in the past they've been able to take for granted for the most part that they can probably no longer take for granted in the new normal.
- The goal is for participants to clearly identify old assumptions and thus, begin to engage the process of transformative learning and mindset change.*
- 4:00-4:30**      **Small group work developing principles for operating in the new normal.**
- Given all the elements you've identified and processed this afternoon, what things do you think people engaged in the work of innovating and reinventing strong Michigan communities should keep in mind?
- The goal is for participants to begin creating a mindset consistent with the kind of transformation of their organizations and communities that will be necessary in the new normal.*
- 4:30-4:50**      **Reporting Out on Our New Understanding of the New Normal.**
- Each group reports out on the two principles they identified as most important for operating in the new normal.
- The goal is to identify a repertoire of principles (aka assumptions) for operating in the new normal.*
- 4:50-5:00**      **Charge for Next Meeting.**