Upcoming Events

Sustainability Planning and Collaboration in Rural Canada: Taking the Next Steps

Sustainability Planning and Collaboration in Rural Canada: Taking the Next Steps is now available. Written and edited in part by Dr. Lars Hallstrom, this collection of case studies examines the shift toward sustainability-based planning as a key element of community development. Furthermore, it explores the growth of partnerships between communities and post-secondary institutions. Rural development researchers, decision makers and elected officials, political scientists and policy analysts, and community engagement practitioners will benefit from this book's ideal, rational progression - which mirrors the policy process itself - from problem identification to engagement, solutions, and evaluation. Available through the University of Alberta Press on Oct 15, 2015.

Canadian Rural Health Research Society Annual Conference

Network Leadership Symposium #7 Networks as Interventions: Policy Tools or Panacea?
Lister Centre, U of A | Edmonton, AB September 22-24, 2015 http://www.acsrc.ca/

Rural Alberta Innovation Learning Commons
Augustana Campus | Camrose, AB October 2-4, 2015 www.rail-commons.ca

Alberta Association of Municipal Districts & Counties Fall Convention
Shaw Conference Centre | Edmonton, AB November 17-20, 2015 http://www.aamdc.com/

Rural Alberta Innovation Learning (RAIL) Commons

The ACSRC and the Battle River Alliance for Economic Development (BRAED) (Killam, AB) will present the Rural Alberta Innovation and Learning Commons, a three-day educational commons taking place on October 2 to 4, 2015 at Augustana Campus, U of A. Focusing on rural economic and community development, RAIL will welcome two keynote speakers and a host of other speakers from across Alberta. Included in the Commons is an opening evening mixer at the Bailey Theatre and an evening Gala at the Performing Arts Center.

Keynote speakers, Jason Dewling from Olds College and Rob Greenwood from Memorial University, Newfoundland will present on the Pillars of Innovation and new opportunities and approaches to rural and regional development, respectively. Attendees (municipal officials, professionals and students) will have the opportunity to attend a variety of concurrent sessions ranging from waste energy solutions to protected areas to attracting and retaining employees.

For schedule and speaker information and to register for the RAIL-Commons visit: www.RAIL-Commons.ca

Canadian Rural Health Research Society

Congratulations to Dr. Lars Hallstrom, Professor of Political Studies at Augustana Campus with a joint appointment in the Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology, and Director of the ACSRC. Dr. Hallstrom has been chosen to receive the 2015 Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations (CAFA) Distinguished Academic Award.

The annual CAFA Awards are specifically designed to honour excellence and raise awareness of the many ways in which the scholarly or creative work of university academic staff members serves the wider community outside of our universities.

Awards will be presented in Edmonton on September 17 2015.
**Augustana Miquelon Lake Research Station Grand Opening**

On behalf of the University of Alberta, Augustana Dean Allen Berger would like to say thank you to everyone who was able to come out and celebrate the opening of the brand new Augustana Miquelon Lake Research Station, affectionately known as AMLRS. Over 100 guests arrived on August 20, 2015 to take part in the grand opening of the station. Guests toured the facility, learned about sustainable design aspects incorporated into the facility, and the research and projects based out of the Station.

Though AMLRS officially opened with speeches and cupcakes, it was already being used by 11 Augustana undergraduate students and 2 professors involved a field course. The three week course had students design and carry out their own research projects inside Miquelon Lake Provincial Park, using the station as a lab, office, and housing. The station also hosted an Alberta Parks Social Sciences Working Group focusing on identifying the top 20 research priorities within Alberta Parks. The ACSRC has partnered in these projects.

---

**Network Leadership Symposium #7**

Networks as Interventions: Policy Tools or Panacea?

Since 2005, a collaborative of individuals and organizations from across Canada, the United States and Europe has planned and hosted six Network Leadership Symposia designed for senior government, research and organizational leaders to explore ways to establish, support, manage and evaluate inter-organizational networks. Building on our prior success, a seventh symposium is being held September 22-24, 2015 in Edmonton, Alberta. This year, the ACSRC has agreed to take on the secretariat role, supported by a planning committee, for the event.

The 2015 symposium will gather more than a dozen speakers to explore if and/or how inter-organizational networks can help address critical policy issues and practice challenges. Specifically, can networks be used successfully as deliberate tools or interventions to create better public policy, services and practice; or are they simply so ubiquitous that they have become the universal remedy, effective or not, for any wicked problem?

For more information or to register, visit www.acsrc.ca and select Network Leadership Symposium 2015 on the left hand side of the screen.

---

**ACSRC Summer Student Research Assistants**

This past summer, the ACSRC employed six summer students conducting six different research projects that ranged from creating a rural capacity survey to research on food hubs. Several of these research projects were completed during the summer and were presented at the summer Research Assistant Symposium in August, while several projects are carrying over into the University’s fall semester.

Corbin Emslie, a fifth year Political Studies major at Augustana, continues his research this fall. In partnership with Beaver County, the project focuses on youth engagement. He addresses youth involvement, youth programming, and youth infrastructure in Beaver County through a series of workshops aimed at identifying assets that could be used to aid community development and youth retention. Partnered with the municipalities of Beaver County, the Tofield and Viking/Beaver Family & Community Support Services, and Alberta Health Services the project is moving forward successfully. Through collaboration and intersectoral communication, the Beaver County Youth Engagement Project hopes to create more inviting communities for youth to live and work in.

‘Framing the Outsider: Pictures, the Gendered Mediation Thesis and Canadian Provincial Leadership’ a paper researched and written by fourth year Bachelor of Arts student Wilissa Reist over the summer. Funding was provided by the University of Alberta’s Undergraduate Research Initiative and the ACSRC. Reist’s paper explores the media’s synonymous association of women with the apolitical through its use of photos to present politics, and concluded with some definitive results. The study indicated a relationship between sex and the media’s photographic portrayal of politicians; female politicians were significantly more likely to be presented as passive observers while men were active participants within the political process. Ultimately, this paper argued that the photos used by the media reflect pre-existent notions that male leadership is the norm within politics, while female politicians are political outsiders.

---

Network Leadership Symposium #7

Networks as Interventions: Policy Tools or Panacea?