Call for Abstracts – Due September 1, 2016

Urban Innovation – Building Collaborative Partnerships between University, Community, and Civic Leaders

2016 Northeast Regional Urban Extension Conference

November 29-30, 2016
Paul Robeson Campus Center
Rutgers University-Newark, University Heights
350 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Newark, NJ 07102

Rutgers Cooperative Extension invites you to submit an abstract for the 2016 Northeast Regional Urban Extension Conference, to be held at the Paul Robeson Campus Center of Rutgers University-Newark. Participants will be “looking forward to another great 100 years of Cooperative Extension” as they share their best practices in urban Extension programming. Join us by submitting an abstract for an oral presentation or a poster to share your knowledge and experience with your colleagues and stakeholders.

This two-day regional conference will convene Cooperative Extension faculty, government officials, and local stakeholders to highlight research and projects that are helping to build more resilient, sustainable, and healthy urban communities. As developed by the National Urban Extension Leaders (NUEL), the conference is organized around the following themes:

Strengthen Communities: Urban extension shares the knowledge of the university to strengthen communities by improving the quality of life for urban residents through economic development, housing, and job training/creation. This includes community partnerships that involve building networks, developing local leadership, capacity, and encouraging the full participation of community members to work together to improve the quality of life.

Protect the Environment: Urban extension shares un-biased scientific solutions for environmental issues. The goal is to provide technical expertise to support the restoration and protection of our water, air, and natural resources. This includes working with communities to identify green infrastructure opportunities to reduce the occurrence of combined sewer overflows (CSOs), increase green space in a highly urbanized community, improve air quality, reduce the urban heat island effect, and increase environmental biodiversity.

Improve our Health: Extending the knowledge of our community development professionals to improve health and lifestyle through exercise and healthy eating habits. The goal is to help eliminate chronic illnesses that urban communities are facing such as obesity, diabetes, asthma, and high blood pressure.

Enrich the Youth: Providing youth with opportunities to become engaged and activate citizens for a brighter future. This includes providing youth with skills that can be applied to a wide range of career opportunities.
Feed our Future: Educating communities to overcome challenges in developing a local food network. The goal is to provide leadership to establish urban farming and community gardens that provide fresh produce and promote urban agriculture production sustainability that better nourishes local neighborhoods.

These themes will be addressed through keynote speakers, panel presentations (20 minutes), lightening sessions (5 minutes), and posters. Presenters will be encouraged to explore the theme and to address at least two of the following talking points:

- Building collaborative partnerships, both within cooperative Extension and with stakeholders
- Exploring emerging issues to discover innovative ideas and best practices
- Improving capabilities in technology to advance outreach
- Discovering innovative funding practices
- Increasing knowledge and skills to design stronger urban programs
- Demonstrating techniques to evaluate, document, and communicate positive impacts of urban Extension programming to stakeholders
- Addressing challenges to urban programming.

All submissions will be subject to blind peer evaluation. Those selected will have the opportunity to submit a longer abstract for peer review and publication in the conference proceedings.

INSTRUCTIONS: Please submit the following information to water@envsci.rutgers.edu with a subject line reading: 2016 Urban Innovation Abstract.

- Name and Title / Lead Presenter
- Organization/Institution of lead presenter
- Theme
- Two talking points to be addressed:
- Presentation Type: Poster / Oral / Panel / Lightening Round

Round 1 – Abstract Summary not to exceed 100 words. Abstracts will be reviewed and presenters will be notified of acceptance for Round 2.

Round 2 – Once accepted, participants are encouraged to submit an extended abstract, not to exceed 1,000 words that will be peer reviewed for submission in the conference proceedings. The extended abstract should include identification of your community partners, other key stakeholders, and an explanation of their role in the project. Format for submission will be provided upon invitation.

Presenter Expenses

All presenters will be responsible for their own expenses, including conference registration, travel, and handouts. All presenters chosen must be available to present during all session times. Special requests can be made, but will not be guaranteed. Please note, the registration fee will range from $195-225 per person pending early bird registration dates.

Limitation of Presentations

All decisions made by the conference committee will be final. The conference committee has the authority and responsibility for placing sessions in the program at a day and time that best suits the overall program. Selected presenters will have 15 days to accept.

For Questions Contact: Christopher C. Obropta , Ph.D., P.E. at obropta@envsci.rutgers.edu