Freshman in PPPM 199 Make Media Splash and Benefit Two Nonprofit Organizations

Hoping to spread the word about the PPPM Department to UO freshmen and try out a new twist in teaching about the nonprofit sector, Assistant Professor Renee Irvin inaugurated a new course this winter called American Philanthropy: The Art and Science of Giving Money Away. Thanks to a Eugene Register-Guard article that got picked up by the Associated Press, the class received much more media attention than originally envisioned.

The public attention focused on the final class project; students were required to give away $5,000 to a nonprofit organization. After studying the history, economics, and psychology of philanthropy, the eighteen freshmen set out to study a variety of nonprofit organizations active in Lane County. They narrowed their choices to five finalist organizations, then formed five teams and interviewed the organizations on-site.

The five finalists were Committed Partners for Youth, Neighborhood Economic Development Corporation, Greenhill Humane Society, Students Helping Street Kids International, and Start Making a Reader Today.

Each team prepared a persuasive presentation to try to sway the other students to vote for their organization. In the process, the entire class learned about a variety of topics, including affordable housing from the NEDCO team, comparative poverty in the U.S. and other countries from the SHSKI team, and the importance of mentoring at-risk youth from the CPY team.

In the end, two organizations won the most student votes, with $1,500 awarded to Greenhill Humane Society and $3,500 to Start Making a Reader Today. Students were swayed, some claim, by the heart-tugging appearance of Harley, the three-legged dog (Greenhill’s mascot).

The SMART team had a particularly well-designed presentation, despite the loss of their Powerpoint slides, that drew on statistics showing how important and effective early intervention in reading programs are, and how the class donation could change twenty young lives.

Wells Fargo Bank sponsored the class, and even invited students to Eugene’s Town Club for the awards luncheon. Representatives of radio and TV media were there to record the awards to the organizations and to interview students. Pleased with the media attention and efforts of the students, Wells Fargo Bank has agreed to sponsor the course next year. Graduate students in the PPPM department have asked for a graduate version of the course, so we are at work on finding a way to fund a proposed graduate seminar in philanthropy.

Annual Award Reception on June 6 will honor Gregg Kantor and Peter DeFazio

PPPM’s second annual award ceremony will take place on the afternoon of June 6 in Gerlinger Hall on the University Campus. The PPPM advisory board has voted to honor Gregg Kantor as the department’s 2003 Distinguished Alumnus and Representative Peter DeFazio for his outstanding service to the state of Oregon. Additional awardees, yet to be determined, include the Distinguished Young Alumnus and the PPPM Outstanding Teacher of the Year.

The reception will begin with a display of student projects in Gerlinger Hall Alumni Lounge at 3:00 p.m., followed by the award ceremony at 4:00 p.m. and a reception.

Due to budget restraints this newsletter is a formal invitation all PPPM alumni and friends to cordially inviting you to attend this ceremony.
From the Department Head

We are in the midst of a very difficult time for public service and higher education. Despite that, PPPM seems to be going from success to success. It’s extremely gratifying to see the accomplishments of our students, staff, and faculty over the past year. The spirit of PPPM is a constant source of amazement and renewal for me. I’m going to use this space to comment on a few of the things that reflect that spirit for me.

First, I’m sure you’ve noticed the new name and masthead. We’ve been soliciting ideas for the past couple of issues, looking for a name that conveys a sense of the expansiveness of PPPM. We wanted something that includes those who are currently working in Hendricks Hall—studying, teaching, researching, and providing public service. As well, we wanted a name that would encompass all the graduates of PPPM and its predecessors—the Wallace School of Community Service and Public Affairs and the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, and all the other friends of PPPM around the globe. We all owe a debt to Fridah Kawasha, master’s student and editor of this year’s newsletter, for coming up with PPPM Circle. It perfectly captures the spirit of the department. Thanks, Fridah!

And speaking of the spirit of PPPM, we have a new image and motto that also reflect the circle theme. They were created for us by graphic designer Greg Berger, the husband of one of our community and regional planning master’s students. Thanks, Greg! Their first use will be on department T-shirts, which will be available for purchase at cost. Ordering information can be found elsewhere in the PPPM Circle.

The site visit team that reviewed the CRP program for reaccreditation also noted the spirit of PPPM. They complimented our “excellent students” and “eager young faculty.”

But the proof is in the pudding. PPPM students continue to earn more than their share of prizes, awards, and fellowships. The many alumni of PPPM and its predecessor programs are having a major impact on the quality of the social, economic, natural, and built environment—improving the quality of life for people around the world. The awards we presented last year to Distinguished Alumnus Steve Wright and Distinguished Young Alumna Kirstin Greene are representative reflections of the spirit of PPPM. We will have our second annual award ceremony on campus June 6, 2003. I invite you to attend.

In closing I want to mention that I’m going to take a sabbatical. I’ll be on leave from April to December, 2003. Associate Department Head Jean Stockard will be acting department head during that time. I’m grateful to her for filling in and I’m sure she’ll do a terrific job. Thanks, Jean!

Students Receive Honors

PPPM students continue to receive university honors. Skye A. Sieber, who received her masters in community and regional planning in 2002, was awarded $1,000 by the Institute for Business and Home Safety for her thesis work entitled “An Evaluation of Hazard Mitigation Planning in Oregon: Four Case Study Flood Mitigation Plans.”

Amy Lapin, a second year CRP graduate student, was one of the seven 2003 recipients of the AAA Dean’s Graduate Fellowships. Her award of $5,000 will help support research for her thesis work entitled “Evaluating Regional Affordable Housing Policy: A GIS-Based Comparison of Affordable Housing in the Portland, Oregon and Denver, Colorado Regions.”

Holly LeMasurier received a research grant from the Center for the Study of Women in Society to support her thesis work in conjunction with both our department and International Studies.

Two PPPM graduate students have received AI Frazier Awards, established in his honor by the Frazier family to provide financial support to PPPM graduate students’ exit projects and thesis work. Barbara Biedrzycki received an award for travel to the Best Practices 2003 Conference sponsored by the International City/ Council Management Association. Holly Langan received a grant to cover the purchase of software to help complete her thesis entitled “Aligning Agency and Community Goals: The Lane County Department of Youth Services Customer Feedback Project.”
Faculty Updates

John Baldwin has recently been involved in a number of conferences including presenting a paper on "Population, Crime, and Terrorism" at the March E-Law Conference. At the HOPES Conference in April he will host a panel on Ecocities International and present a talk and slide show on the "Ecocities of Europe." In May, he is organizing one of the four major forums "Designing Campuses that Teach Sustainability" at the Sustainability Forum III in Portland. He has recently served as a resource expert for the twenty-four hour Agenda 21 Internet Conference organized by UNESCO Germany and the Baltic Sea Project. In addition, John serves on the organizing committee of the West Coast Education for Sustainability Project which is organizing forty campuses from Southern California to Alaska into a sustainability network. Finally, this summer, he is traveling with the summer program of Semester at Sea (University of Pittsburgh) to Hawaii, Tahiti, Fiji, New Zealand, and Australia.

Robert Choquette, instructor in PPPM, has accepted the position of director of administration for the Oregon Survey Research Laboratory (OSRL), effective January 1. OSRL specializes in telephone, mail, and web-based surveys and has been under the direction of Patricia Gwartzney since its inception in 1993. Gwartzney will return full time to her position in sociology in June. In addition to his duties with OSRL, he will continue to teach in PPPM on a part-time basis.

Judith Hibbard's work continues to be in the area of health care quality and the role of consumers in containing costs. She has five new publications in 2003 on this theme including work related to the effect of public reports of hospital quality on improvement efforts, the role of consumers in promoting better health, and ways to better present information regarding differences in health care options. Professor Hibbard's work continues to bring substantial grant funding to the university with research projects funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

Michael Hibbard has two articles forthcoming that were coauthored with his students. "Environmental Resistance to Place-Based Collaboration in the U.S. West," written with Jeremy Madsen (M.A. in environmental studies, 2001), will be published in Society and Natural Resources. "Ecosystem Restoration as Community Economic Development? An Assessment of the Possibilities" written with Kristen Karle (M.C.R.P., 2001), will be published in Journal of the Community Development Society.

Renee Irvin has been busy with the directorship of the Graduate Certificate in Not-for-Profit Management Program, which has grown to forty-four enrolled students in its second year. For summers 2002 and 2003, Renee has a faculty fellowship in the Oregon Survey Research Laboratory. She has had two articles accepted for publication this year so far; one article on nonprofit management faculty will appear in Journal of Public Affairs Education this month, and another article entitled “Citizen Participation in Decision-Making: Is It Worth the Effort?” is forthcoming in 2004 in Public Administration Review. Her current research is focused on the geographic dispersal of wealth and philanthropic capacity.

Rich Margerum has been busy settling into Eugene with teaching, research, and renovating an East Eugene house. He is currently working on an article that evaluates collaborative growth management in metropolitan Denver, and recently submitted a journal article detailing regional coordination efforts in the Rogue River basin. In July 2002, he started work on a research project examining the factors motivating private landowners to adopt conservation practices in Oregon watersheds. The project, which is funded by the Community-Based Collaboratives Research Consortium (based in Virginia), is being conducted jointly with Peter Walker from the geography department. He continues to teach the graduate classes Introduction to Planning, Plan Making, and Collaborative Planning and Management, and an undergraduate class The Practice of Leadership and Change.

Bob Parker was recently selected to submit a chapter for an upcoming book, Lessons in Smart Growth: University Case Studies and Best Practices. The project is sponsored by the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning with support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. His work will focus on the CPW model and highlights CPW's approach, strategies for developing university-community partnerships, and developing an institutional framework for community service programs that focus on smart growth issues.

Marc Schlossberg has been busy establishing his research agenda, which includes work related to transportation planning, nonprofit organizations, and the use of GIS. An article, "Developing Coordination Policies for Paratransit and the Transportation Disadvantaged," will soon appear in the journal Transportation Research Record; and he has received a grant from the Mineta Transportation Institute to study transit-oriented development in San Jose, California, and Portland, Oregon. Marc recently participated with twenty-four other researchers in a National Science Foundation and Transport Canada-sponsored conference on transportation research. In the coming months he will organize and participate in special panels related to GIS, community support organizations, and evaluation at both the National...
Program for Watershed and Community Health Joins Institute for a Sustainable Environment, PWCH Director Joins PPPM

The Program for Watershed and Community Health (PWCH) has joined the Institute for a Sustainable Environment and PWCH Director Bob Doppelt has been appointed courtesy associate professor in PPPM.

PWCH is a sustainable development research, training, and technical assistance provider formerly affiliated with Portland State University. Its particular emphasis is sustainable governance, organizational change, and watershed management.

PWCH is involved with extensive applied research. For example, in October 2002 three PPPM graduate students, working with Doppelt and Associate Professor John Baldwin completed a formative review of the state of Oregon's efforts to adopt sustainability measures. Also in October 2002, PWCH completed an eighteen-month-long national assessment for the U.S. Forest Service of its Community-Based Large-Scale Watershed Restoration Programs.

PWCH is currently involved with a number of technical assistance efforts. It is coordinating the Local Government Sustainability Network in cooperation with the League of Oregon Cities. The network helps local governments understand and develop sustainability programs and policies.

PWCH is also assisting the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Bonneville Power Administration with their Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program. This is an effort to expand strategies to meet instream flows while achieving local economic and community needs.

As well, PWCH is working with a task force of local elected officials and economic development agencies to identify sustainable economic development and job creation options applicable to the southern Willamette Valley. And PWCH is coordinating an effort across the West to increase local capacity to assist low-income households in developing wildfire prevention plans. The PWCH has also initiated a "sustainable governance" project that helps private firms and government adopt governance systems to facilitate sustainable development.

PPPM graduate student interns are involved with each of these activities.

Deliberative Democracy by Ed Weeks

One of the great things about being a professor in PPPM is the opportunity to work with bright, energetic students on important topics. I thought I'd use my work with students this year to illustrate how tightly learning, service, and scholarship are intertwined in PPPM. A similar story could be told for each faculty member in the department.

Catherine Porter has taken over from Jen Smith who, despite my best efforts, completed her thesis, graduated and accepted a presidential management internship. Catherine is somehow coordinating everything that is going on while also taking a lead role in the continuing deliberative democracy projects in Sacramento. It was gratifying to hear members of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors recently reaffirm that deliberative democracy is not a method or a project, but a philosophy of governance that they intend to sustain even in these difficult budget times.

While we are continuing the deliberative democracy projects in Sacramento, our work has expanded to include the consideration of alternative governance models appropriate for the complex geographic, jurisdictional, and political environment of Sacramento County. Tris O'Shaughnessy is doing the deep thinking on this topic and will make it the subject of her thesis.

Tris is also working with Holly Langan on a comprehensive assessment of the Lane County Youth Services Department. They are using many of the same techniques of deliberative democracy to capture the assessments of a variety of interested parties, including youth and their parents. This is an example of a special sort of internship we are trying to establish: one in which the student takes on a particularly challenging assignment, operates at the executive level of the agency, has opportunities for mentoring and networking at that level, and gets paid.

Holly and Tris earlier this year completed a particularly important project for the United Way of Lane County. They produced a comprehensive report on a large collection of indicators, which together describe the overall social well-being of the county. Referred to as the "Lane County State of Caring," summaries of the report were printed and distributed throughout Lane County by the Register Guard. Their report will serve as the model for an annual county report.

Catherine, Holly, and Tris were joined by Barb Biedrzycki, Elliott Shuford, Paul Haller, and Reed Wagner to quickly pull together a deliberative process to help Multnomah County find a solution for a very difficult budget rebalancing task. In addition to designing the process, they trained volunteer facilitators and managed the logistics of a number of public workshops held across the county. An innovation for this project was the development of a web-based budget simulation as an additional avenue of participation.

Catherine is addressing the role of web-based deliberative democracy tools for her thesis topic.

This partial summary illustrates the range and quality of work PPPM students do over the course of a year. To borrow and expand a cliche, this is a win-win-win proposition. Students benefit from a rich learning environment, faculty members benefit from the talented student assistance, and the community benefits from having new ways of addressing perennial problems.
Community Planning Workshop Services

For more than twenty-five years, the Community Planning Workshop (CPW) has provided service to local and state government agencies in Oregon by engaging graduate students in the PPPM program in applied research projects. CPW has an array of exciting projects this year that span a range of planning and public policy issues:

- **Beaverton Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.** The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires all incorporated cities to develop and adopt natural hazards mitigation plans. CPW is working with the city of Beaverton to inventory hazardous areas and develop strategies that will reduce risks of future natural disasters.

- **Redmond Annexation Plan.** The city of Redmond in Central Oregon expects to double its population in the next twenty years. CPW is assisting the city in evaluating the fiscal, social, and environmental impacts of annexing unincorporated lands within its urban growth boundary.

- **Food, Farms & Communities.** Oregon is ranked as the least food secure state in the nation. CPW is working with Food for Lane County to establish food action groups in seven Lane County communities.

- **Telework Outreach Evaluation.** Telework was widely publicized in the 1990s as a strategy to decrease commuting trips. CPW is working with the Oregon Office of Energy to evaluate its telework outreach efforts to businesses in the Portland Metropolitan area.

- **Encouraging Smart Growth in Rural Communities.** Oregon has implemented growth management strategies for nearly thirty years. CPW is working with the Transportation and Growth Management Program to assess barriers to implementing smart growth principles in rural communities.

For more information, contact Bob Parker, (54) 346-3801, or visit the CPW website: http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~cpw.

Natural Hazard Mitigation Efforts Continue in Hendricks Hall

Oregon communities are vulnerable to earthquakes, wildfires, floods, and other natural disasters with the potential to cause extensive loss of life and property and severe disruption to essential human services. Oregon is ranked third nationally for potential earthquake losses—projected to exceed $12 billion given a major Cascadia region subduction zone event. In the past decade, major floods, earthquakes, drought, and severe windstorms as well as other events have resulted in over ten statewide presidential disaster declarations. With the impacts communities have suffered from disasters, there is growing recognition about the importance for, and benefits of, long-term planning strategies and partnerships to reduce risk from natural disasters.

Following an executive order in 2000 by then Governor John Kitzhaber, The Partners for Disaster Resistance and Resilience: Oregon Showcase State Program, coordinated by the University of Oregon Community Service Center's Oregon Natural Hazard Workgroup (ONHW) housed in PPPM, formed a comprehensive framework for government and the private sector to prepare for and minimize the risk and impact of natural hazards. Specifically, the mission of the Showcase State Initiative is to prevent injuries and deaths, protect public and private property, and create a disaster-ready statewide economy through public and private partnerships. The program centers around the activities of its five working groups: state hazard planning, business and economic recovery, predisaster mitigation communities, public awareness, education and outreach, and public-private partnerships and incentive programs.

For more information about the Partners for Disaster Resistance and Resilience visit the website at www.oregonshowcase.org, subscribe to the Oregon Natural Hazards Network listserv (subscription instructions on the front page of website), or contact the ONHW project coordinator, Scott Doyle, at scottd@uoregon.edu; (54) 346-3588.

The Support of Alumni and Friends

Thank you to the alumni and friends of the Department who have supported us in so many ways. If you would like to make a charitable contribution to the department's unrestricted use fund, the Wes Kvarsten Endowment Fund, the Joe Edney Memorial Scholarship Fund, or the Al Frazier Fund please make checks payable to the University of Oregon Foundation/Fund Name, Mail to the Office of Research and Development, School of Architecture and Allied Arts, 5235 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-5235. For questions about gifts of real estate or stocks, please call (541) 346-3697.

CRP Reaccredited

PPPM has been notified by the Planning Accreditation Board (PAB) that the graduate program in community and regional planning has been reaccredited. The reaccreditation process involves an extensive self-study and written report by the department, a rigorous site visit and report to the PAB by a team of two planning academics and one practitioner, and a final interview with the department head by the board.

In its report the site visit team particularly commended CRP for its "quite intelligent and articulate . . . generally excellent students." They also took note of our newly hired professors, characterizing CRP as "a program with young faculty members eagerly looking forward."
GREGG KANTOR, the 2003 Distinguished Alumnus, received his master’s in urban and regional planning from the University of Oregon in 1981 after receiving a bachelor’s degree in environmental studies and geography from the University of California at Santa Barbara. Kantor worked for the Bonneville Power Administration as a government affairs specialist from 1982 to 1986, as the communication director for Governor Neil Goldschmidt from 1987 to 1991, and as the manager of community development for Portland General Electric from 1991 to 1993. After running his own Portland-based public affairs firm, Kantor and Associates, he joined Northwest Natural Gas, where he currently serves as senior vice president of public and regulatory affairs. Kantor serves on the boards of the Oregon Business Council, Oregon Business Alliance, and Northwest Gas Association. He is a former chair of the Classical Chinese Garden Trust and the Association of Portland Progress. He is also a former member of the governor’s Willamette Valley Livability Forum Advisory Board, 1,000 Friends of Oregon, and Livable Oregon. Kantor’s strong record of accomplishment in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors makes him an outstanding recipient of the 2003 Distinguished Alumnus Award.

PETER DEFAZIO, recipient of the Award for Outstanding Service to the State of Oregon, represents Oregon’s fourth district in the U.S. House of Representatives. DeFazio received his master’s degree in interdisciplinary studies from the UO in 1977. Prior to his election to Congress in 1986, DeFazio served as a Lane County commissioner. In Congress he serves on a number of important committees including the House Select Committee on Homeland Security and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and is the ranking member of the Aviation Subcommittee. Throughout his career DeFazio has shown a strong commitment to people of the state of Oregon, returning about three times each month to his home district. Since entering Congress he has contributed almost $200,000 in money from his congressional pay raises to scholarships and the fund to reduce the national debt. These contributions have funded over 100 scholarships for displaced Oregon workers at the four Southwestern Oregon Community Colleges and the University of Oregon. For his selfless service to the state the PPPM advisory committee is pleased to award Peter DeFazio the 2003 PPPM Award for Outstanding Service to the State of Oregon.

Please join the PPPM advisory council and department faculty members and students for our annual award reception in honor of these recipients. For parking information, please check the following:
Campus Parking Map (pdf): http://geography.uoregon.edu/infographics/campusMaps/parkingmap.pdf
Campus Buildings Map (htm): http://geography.uoregon.edu/infographics/campusMaps/ uowebmapLarge.htm
Campus Buildings Map (pdf): http://geography.uoregon.edu/infographics/campusMaps/LineArtMap.pdf
Text directions for parking: http://safetyweb.uoregon.edu/parking/ lots.htm

If you need more information about location or parking, contact Zudegi Giordano at (541) 346-3808, or e-mail to zudegi@uoregon.edu.

Departmental T-shirts Available for Purchase

Departmental T-shirts featuring our new image and motto, shown on the front of the newsletter, will soon be available for purchase. We will be ordering 50 short-sleeve crew neck and 50 long-sleeve hooded sweatshirts in a sage green color with the logo in black ink. The front of the T-shirts will have over the pocket area the following words:

"Planning, Public Policy and Management"

The back of the T-shirts will have the design shown on the right in the middle of the shirt. For more information on cost and ordering, contact Zudegi Giordano at (541) 346-3808 or e-mail to zudegi@uoregon.edu.
Conference on Evaluation and the Association for Research of Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Associations, and will also coedit a special edition of the journal *Evaluation* for the National Conference on Evaluation.

**Jean Stockard** served as associate department head in fall and winter of the 2002–3 academic year and will be acting department head during Michael Hibbard’s sabbatical. She continues her collaboration with Judith Hibbard in studies of public reporting on hospital performance and measures of activated consumerism, both of which are funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She also continues her research and publication in social planning and policy, including changes in the age distribution of lethal violence and the relationship of community factors to variations in activity and health. A highlight of this year was her presidential address to the Pacific Sociological Association on the relationship of sociology to public policy.

**Ed Weeks**, along with Mike Hibbard, continues as coeditor of *Journal of Planning Education and Research*. He has also been appointed to the International City-County Management Association Credential Advisory Committee. Locally he continues to serve on the executive committee for the United Way of Lane County. His research work continues to focus on the development of deliberative democracy. The current focus is to develop web-based tools to support community dialogues. Earlier this year the organization developed a web-based budget simulation for Multnomah County and currently they are working on a web-based model for a group of community planning projects in Sacramento County, California. Their most ambitious project is an effort to develop, in partnership with news media, a web-based simulation for the Oregon budget.

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**Jessica Greene Joins the Faculty**

The Department is proud to announce the hiring of a new faculty member, Jessica Greene, who will join PPPM’s faculty in fall 2003. Assistant Professor Greene will receive her doctoral degree in public administration from the Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at NYU in June of this year. She also has a bachelor of arts in anthropology from the University of Michigan and master’s degrees in public health and international affairs from Columbia. Jessica will add to the department’s strengths in public and nonprofit management, evaluation research, and health policy. Her most recent experience is as a project director at NYU for program evaluations and applied research studies related to vulnerable populations’ access to health care and the management of chronic illness. Throughout her career she has also worked in the New York City mayor’s office, the New York State Department of Health, and the Pan-American Health Organization. At Oregon she plans to continue her work with health policy and public administration and will teach in both the graduate PPM program and the undergraduate program.

**Carl Hosticka Retires**

Carl Hosticka retired from PPPM at the end of fall 2002 and was named associate professor emeritus by UO President Dave Frohnmayer.

In addition to his work as a member of the faculty, Hosticka served for two years as PPPM department head and for ten years as UO associate vice president for statewide educational programs. He is best known outside the university for his active career in Oregon politics. He held a variety of leadership positions in the Oregon State House of Representatives, where he served for twelve years as representative from south Eugene. He is currently an elected member of the board of directors of Metro, the pioneering regional planning agency for the Portland metropolitan area.

Although Hosticka is retiring, he will not be leaving PPPM completely. He will continue to teach two courses a year in his areas of specialization, public policy analysis and public budgeting.
RARE Welcomes Two New Funding Partners

The Resource Assistance for Rural Environments Program (RARE) began its ninth year of operation in October 2003. Following training, twenty-one members began service to rural Oregon across the state, from Enterprise to Medford. These twenty-one join the more than 200 former RARE members that have served rural Oregon. RARE is now recruiting for members and communities for our tenth year!

This year, RARE is excited to have two new funding partners. RARE received a $133,903 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI). RCDI funds technical assistance support to develop or increase rural communities’ capacity to implement projects in the areas of housing, community facilities, and community and economic development. For RARE, these funds will be used to support positions in the following counties: Baker, Douglas, Hood, Lincoln, Linn, Polk, Wallowa, and Washington. The Oregon Community Foundation is providing $12,000 to support community workshops. The RARE Program provides a workshop with each of its placements for community members. These workshops increase community capacity beyond the service of the member. Topics include nonprofit board development, computer skills, and GIS, among many others. OCF is providing funding for workshops in each RARE community.

RARE recently hosted the seventh annual Making Connections conference in Salem. The conference was a great success thanks to the more than forty-five nonprofit organizations and state and federal agency representatives who joined RARE at the round table sessions. Thanks also to the RARE members and their community counterparts for joining us in Salem and making connections for their communities. The conference attendees also had a chance to come to Salem a day early and participate in Rural Oregon Day at the legislature.

For more information about RARE, contact Megan Smith at (541) 346-3881, smith@darkwing.uoregon.edu, or visit the RARE website, http://www.uoregon.edu/~rare/.