



CAMPUS MEMO

TO: All Faculty, Springfield Campus
FROM: Rachelle Darabi, Associate Provost
DATE: March 17, 2014
RE: Building healthy communities: Body, mind and spirit

Nominations and Applications are solicited for the Provost Fellow for Public Affairs

The Office of the Provost is pleased to announce that the Public Affairs theme for the **2015-2016 academic year** will be ***Building healthy communities: Mind, body, and spirit***. In order to allow for better planning and preparation, we have selected the theme early and are now accepting nominations and applications for the Provost Fellow for Public Affairs for 2015-2016. The selected Fellow will “shadow” the current Provost Fellow, Dr. Kurt Heinlein, in order to better understand the planning process of the Public Affairs Conference.

The 2015-2016 Public Affairs theme, ***Building Healthy Communities: Mind, body, and spirit***, is rich with opportunities to engage the campus community in discussions that will help us be a part of building healthy communities. It will serve as a vehicle for investigating the benefits, issues, and challenges of building healthy communities, both locally and globally. The traditional interpretation of “healthy” as relating only to physical health is limited in scope. A more holistic view includes mental health and intellectual engagement, as well as an awareness of the role of spirituality in the well-being of a community.

Building healthy communities: Body

Can a community be healthy if citizens lack access to healthcare and nutrition? How can a community be proactive to anticipate and prevent growing health concerns? What role does technology play in promoting the health of a community and its citizens? How may community institutions (government, work places, schools, places of worship) work together to promote wellness? What role does public safety play in community wellness? What economic and social factors contribute to health or the lack thereof? Are the processes of building healthy local communities transferable to a global level?

Building healthy communities: Mind

To what extent are mental health needs a priority in the community? In what ways can community institutions (work places, government, schools, places of worship) work together to promote mental health and to identify those with mental disorders? How will a community benefit from providing access to mental health resources? What are the benefits of an intellectually engaged community? What are the civic responsibilities of community leaders to provide artistic, cultural, and educational opportunities to expand the intellectual lives of its citizens?

Building healthy communities: Spirit

What is the role of religion in a healthy 21st century community? What is the distinction between spiritual and religious beliefs, and how can the community benefit from both? How has technology altered the traditional paths to spirituality and religion, and how have those changes affected the wellness of the community? What are the effects on a community as populations and belief systems become more diverse? Is there a distinction between tolerance and inclusion? How can the deep schisms that separate those with differing belief systems be healed to promote a healthier community?

As is the case this year with the theme of ***The Ethical Citizen: Can you make a difference?*** the intent will be to incorporate this new theme into as many campus activities and programs as possible. This effort will begin with recruitment and orientation materials sent out to prospective students; carry through to the New Student Convocation, Public Affairs Week, the Public Affairs Convocation Lecture; and culminate with the 2016 Public Affairs Conference, which will be the primary responsibility of the Provost Fellow for Public Affairs with support being provided by the Office of Public Affairs Support and the Conference Advisory Committee.

The Office of the Provost welcomes applications and nominations for a Provost Fellow who will be responsible for refining this theme, developing and promoting related activities and serve as the chair of the 2015 Public Affairs Conference. The person selected will receive a one course reassignment per semester (total of 6 hours) and an \$8,000 stipend. Although the appointment will be for one year, the person selected will be asked to shadow the 2014-2015 Provost Fellow in order to gain an understanding of the full responsibilities of the position.

Individuals wishing to be considered for this position should submit **a CV and letter of interest** outlining their experience, skills and ideas to Dr. Rachelle Darabi, Associate Provost for Student Development and Public Affairs no later than **5 pm, April 11**. Review of applications will begin April 14. Questions concerning this position should be directed to Dr. Rachelle Darabi.