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New Partnership with NASW, Utah

Written by Julianne Rabb

In the fall of 2015, UNP began working with a group of University of Utah Master of Social Work (MSW) graduates from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds as they prepared for the clinical license exam. Often students who take the exam have found that it is very rooted in *this* culture and less intuitive for people from other backgrounds. As current professionals in the field, the resident participants reported a strong desire to increase their professional capacity by attaining their clinical licensure, and called upon UNP to support their efforts.

In partnership with the University of Utah's College of Social Work, the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Utah Chapter is providing support through donated study guides and tuition for an all-day training led by faculty. UNP is committed to supporting this professional pathway for MSW graduates of all backgrounds, specifically those focused on addressing the content through a multi-cultural perspective. The study group meets weekly at the UNP Hartland Partnership Center in Salt Lake City. Contact Julianne Rabb at 801.973.5945 for more information.

Food and Friendship

Written by Sarah Munro

In recent months the changing political climate in the country has generated a great deal of fear and anxiety in immigrant and refugee communities, and has left many people in UNP's networks unsure about the future, and even whether they belong in this community any more. Many of our friends and colleagues who are leaders in the neighborhoods had shared the exhaustion of trying to ease the panic of their many friends and relatives, and the weight of being the ones who their communities turn to for support in challenging times.

To demonstrate UNP's deep and ongoing commitment to west side communities and to working will all in a spirit of respect and dignity, UNP hosted a Friendship Dinner in March to extend a hand of support and connection to these community leaders. With a group of 35+ leaders from all over the world, we sat together, ate together, and in three different languages offered a moment to relax and take care of each other. People who came reflected that it was a welcoming and enjoyable experience. This is the kind of world we all want to see.

Cena de la Amistad

Escrito por Teresa Molina

El mes pasado, UNP invitó a los líderes comunitarios a una cena de amistad en Hartland Center. El ambiente social, tenso por las recientes políticas de inmigración y rumores reales o ficticios, ha desencadenado reacciones post-traumáticas en una gran parte de la comunidad del lado oeste, donde muchos residentes son inmigrantes, de origen refugiado y de color. Como consecuencia, muchos líderes que están ayudando a la comunidad, también necesitan espacio para la reflexión y reuniones amistosas, donde puedan volver a conectarse con la realidad de que la sociedad es lo que hacemos de ella. Personas de diferentes etnias, estatus socioeconómico, género, edad e idiomas asistieron a la cena. Hubo un ejercicio de meditación y relajación, facilitado en inglés, español y árabe. Los asistentes disfrutaron de la experiencia, diciendo que lo harían de nuevo. UNP se complace en trabajar juntos para apoyar a todos los grupos de la comunidad y continuar abogando por el acceso a la salud, la educación, el empleo y la vivienda para todos los residentes del lado oeste, apoyando la creación de asociaciones comunitarias para beneficio mutuo y respeto por las diferencias. Reiteramos otra vez nuestra solidaridad y nuestro compromiso con nuestra comunidad.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT Ahmed Ali



Photo by Jewel Morgan

Ahmed is the coordinator for the NAAN (New American Academic Network) program through which he helps individuals with refugee/entrant status who have degrees, certifications or training from other countries, but having resettled here are unable to obtain employment in comparable professional fields. Ahmed helps to provide guidance and resources to overcome these barriers.

Originally from Somalia, Ahmed speaks multiple languages and previously worked as a translator for Utah's Third District Court and for University of Utah Medical Center. He has also worked as a Youth Instructor for Northwest Middle School and as a caseworker for the International Rescue Committee. Ahmed received a Bachelor's Degree in Science from Utah State University.

Ahmed enjoys spending time with his wife and three children. He loves the outdoors, likes soccer, and enjoys traveling.

Be sure to Like us on Facebook for updates about events and resources in the community



Partnership Platform

Focus on Partnerships

Startup Incubator

By Jewel Morgan

Launching ideas into action

The Startup Incubator began with a vision of strengthening west side neighborhoods by supporting the development of small local resident owned nonprofits and businesses. UNP partnered with Sustainable Startups, Sorenson Unity Center, the Bennion Center, and the U's Masters of Public Administration (MPA) program. UNP's Director explained that while many organizations exist to serve residents, bringing services to a community in need is different than emerging from the strengths of a community. With the newly arriving populations and changing demographics, many new organizations and voluntary associations emerged to meet the diverse interests and needs

of local residents. Community leaders had formed grassroots volunteer projects and organizations. Some formed through the Westside Leadership Institute (WLI).

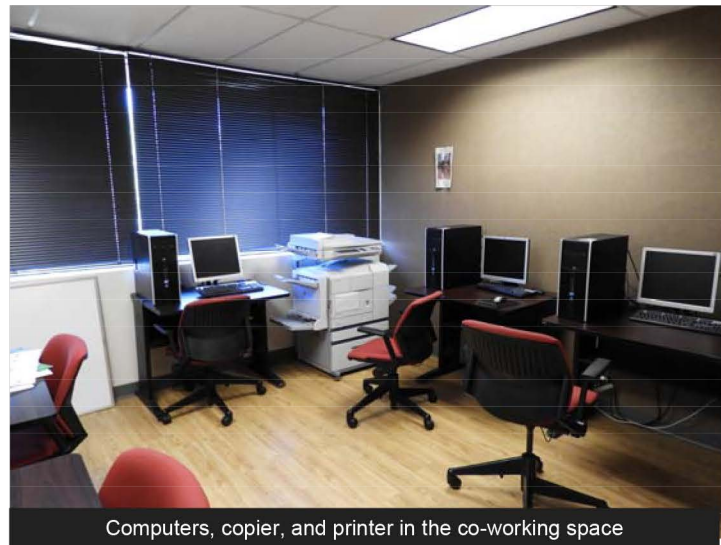
The 2015 pilot program had a cohort of 12 social-minded organizations in a 12-week course with Sustainable Startups that focused on goal setting, identifying a market, forming a viable business plan, and developing a pitch to present the idea to potential backers. Since then the partnership has grown and evolved. Sustainable Startups has been fine tuning their model and other partners have entered

including Synchrony Financial and the Lassonde Entrepreneur Institute. The course is now a 10-week program. Cohorts are supported by an MPA student who helps prepare and coach them along the way. On "pitch day" they compete for mini-grants that can be used for startup costs such as supplies and resources, or for their nonprofit application process.

The partnership identifies ways that higher education institutions can build the capacity of emerging micro-nonprofits and small businesses, while building skills in students and community members alike.

Space to grow

As groups completed the course, many continued to ask UNP for support. Equipped with new knowledge and anxious to continue their momentum, many were in need of additional tools and resources in the form of space, technology, and guidance. Last year the health clinic moved from the UNP-Hartland Partnership Center – leaving a vacant space and new possibilities. UNP saw the



Computers, copier, and printer in the co-working space



Comunidad Materna en Utah meets in the Incubator Space conference room

opportunity to provide space and resources to these fledgling organizations and formed a plan for an incubator space at Hartland. Using equipment and furniture from University Surplus we created a space with computers, a printer, copier, conference room, kitchen type area, and a waiting area.

Many groups had interest, most from WLI or community connections. Presently there are five groups, including two startups, two nonprofits, and one PAR (participatory action research) project. Each at different stages in their

development, these include a resource agency for holistic wellbeing in Hispanic communities, a girls softball program, a community council, a mental health research clinic, and an organization for pre and postnatal care and doula training in the Hispanic community.

In addition to co-working space and tech resources, benefits include coaching and grant writing support. Currently they are working toward unique goals while competing for two mini-grants. Participants need not be cohort members. They complete an

application and agreement, must have residency or a focus in Salt Lake's west side neighborhoods, and other criteria that align with UNP's mission. There are reporting requirements and agreements are for 6 month periods, renewable up to 18 months.

Much of their current support comes from an MPA student, but additional support will come from the SBA's SCORE program and will soon include a Hinckley Institute intern, and a dedicated MSW student.

The student experience

The Startup Incubator and WLI partnerships are both supported by a student from the MPA program. Sarah Balland who is doing her graduate assistantship in this role through the program's executive cohort has brought an array of skills and strengths, adding great value to both partnerships. She will return this fall to continue her work. In turn, the experience enriches her studies and allows for real world application of the MPA curriculum.

In Reflection

By Sarah Balland, MPA Student

My experience with University Neighborhood Partners over the past year has led me to several "public administration moments," where I find myself at the nexus of policies, agendas, partnerships, people, and my own perceptions. Having just returned from working in South East Asia for a year and a half, UNP was an excellent place to rekindle my relationship with American work culture, particularly through my conceptualizations of leadership, organizational culture, and systems. The leadership at UNP has shaped an environment where we freely develop our projects and ourselves through creativity, deliberation, and reflection; it is where we're challenged to maintain a bird's eye view at all times, while simultaneously connecting people and resources through countless perspectives. It is a place where senses are sharpened, multiple systems intertwine, and minds are constantly full of information.

Although I am excited for a summer break, I am also eager to return to UNP in Fall 2017, with heightened senses and a more profound understanding of our work and of myself through the work we do. UNP has molded and shaped me as I have molded and shaped it in return. If this sounds perplexing, it is because it is. UNP is a place where complexity thrives beautifully, and purposing that complexity does not come easily; yet, there is something so natural about it, once you realize what your purpose is.



Centro Eres has one-on-one coaching with the MPA student

Community Corner Snapshots of wonderful west side businesses and restaurants

All Chay

This Fairpark neighborhood Vietnamese restaurant has been making delicious noodle bowls, salads, pho, spring rolls, bahn mi sandwiches, and more for over two years now.

It is locally owned by a brother and sister duo, and a favorite of some UNP staff, partners, and many local residents. People are often surprised to learn that



Photo by Jewel Morgan

the food at this west side restaurant is vegan. The word "chay" actually means vegetarian in Vietnamese. Of course vegetarians are thrilled to have this local option, but even self declared carnivores are known to rave about the food.

All Chay is located in a neighborhood strip mall at 1264 West 500 North and is open Tuesdays—Sundays (Closed Mondays).





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Newsletter Contributions

Do you have ideas you would like to see in a future edition of UNP Partnership News? Is there a UNP Partnership that you would like to know more about? An area business that you'd like recognized? Submit your ideas to unp@partners.utah.edu

Upcoming Events

- **Hartland Spring Festival**

April 29—Noon - 3 p.m.

- **UNP Wolf/Meritus Scholarship**

Applications Due May 5th, 5 p.m.

- **Partners in the Park**

Join UNP staff, partners, and west side residents in local parks for food, fun, and resources.

Tuesdays from 6 to 8 p.m.

June 20 - Jordan Park

June 27 - Sherwood Park

July 11 - Poplar Gove Park

July 18 - Riverside Park

August 8—Northwest Rec Center

