



HUMPHREY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Humphrey School Recognizes 25 Local Government Projects that Demonstrate Innovation and Collaboration

Announcing the Program's First Local Government and Native Nations Collaboration Award Winner

Minneapolis, MN - November 15, 2017— Across the state of Minnesota, local governments are finding creative ways to deliver services to their residents with greater impact and at lower cost. Examples include expanding broadband access in Greater Minnesota communities, improving educational outcomes for Native students, and enhancing emergency response to people with mental health issues.

Those projects and nearly two dozen others are being recognized by the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, as recipients of its 11th annual Local Government Innovation Awards (LGIA).

The awards program is organized in partnership with the Bush Foundation and its Native Nation Building Initiative; and co-sponsored by the League of Minnesota Cities, the Association of Minnesota Counties, Minnesota Association of Townships and the Minnesota School Boards Association. The awards recognize projects in five different categories, and name one overall award winner in each: cities, counties, schools, townships and new this year, Native Nations.

“In our 11th year of this program, we are encouraged to see expansive ideas about collaboration at the core of so much innovation,” said Jay Kiedrowski, senior fellow at the Humphrey School’s Public and Nonprofit Leadership Center. “Collaboration was readily apparent in the majority of the projects we reviewed in all categories. In particular, we saw a great deal of innovation due to collaboration in our new Native Nations category, which specifically celebrates cities, counties, townships and schools working together with at least one of Minnesota’s 11 federally recognized tribes.”

A panel of judges considered over 100 submissions for their creativity, sustainability, and collaboration. The overall winners of the five categories will receive a grant from the Bush Foundation to continue their work, and a professionally produced video to use for marketing and awareness. The winners in the city, county, township and school categories will receive a \$5,000 grant. The Local Government and Native Nations Collaboration Award winner will receive a \$10,000 grant.

All 25 awardees will be formally recognized at an awards ceremony and reception December 7 at 5 p.m. at the Humphrey School. To register for the event, visit <http://lgia.umn.edu/>

Overall category winners of the 2017 Local Government Innovation Awards are:

City Category: The City of St. Paul: Equity Strategic Action Planning for Neighborhoods

In 2017, The City of St. Paul developed Equity Strategic Action Planning for Neighborhoods to support six of its

17 district councils whose role is to ensure inclusive representation of its residents. In recognition of the challenging racial equity work necessary to achieve this, the city worked with a cohort of organizations, staff, community members and an outside advisor. The result is a disciplined approach that now guides community work in inclusive ways that reach racial parity in civic decision-making.

County Category: Blue Earth County Human Services, Sheriff's Department, and Mankato Department of Public Safety: Yellow Line Project

The Yellow Line Project (YLP) provides the earliest response possible when individuals with acute or chronic mental or chemical health problems come in contact with law enforcement. Funded by the Department of Human Services, YLP supports law enforcement and human services negotiations that provide the right services to these individuals at the right time, not after they've crossed "the yellow line" into jail. Results include direct savings in hospitalization and detox costs, reduced reliance on corrections and court services and more.

Township Category: Sunrise Township: Broadband Initiative

Sunrise Township spearheaded an extensive effort consisting of community meetings, required notices and securing buy-in from 50 percent of property owners to bring broadband infrastructure to their residents. In a collaborative effort between residents and the township board, they created a Subordinate Service District (SSD) to help facilitate the installation and financing of high-speed internet through Century Link. The township received a grant and began acquiring a bond while Century Link assists with funding and works to install fiber optics to SSD area residents by December 2018.

School Category: Pillager Public Schools: Metier

Metier, pronounced meteor, is an experiential learning program that teaches students in grades 5-8 to build a life and a career around flow, the happiest state wherein you feel and perform your best. It achieves significant impact by bringing in community, colleges, organizations, and individuals to share education and career paths so students can sample 15 career fields over two years. Metier, supported by the National Joint Powers Alliance and 3M's Bush Foundation, will meet with 15+ schools in November 2017 to encourage replication.

Native Nations Category: Lower Sioux Indian Community: Creating Effective Culturally-Based Resources and Results for American Indian Students + Redwood Area School District

Lower Sioux and the Redwood Area School District's partnership creates cultural resources and improves educational outcomes for Native students. Native students at Redwood have higher proficiencies in state math and reading assessments, and their graduation rate is above the state's rate. This partnership led to the recent election of the first Lower Sioux tribal member to the Redwood Area School Board in over 20 years, and the district's adoption of an unprecedented credit-bearing Dakota language class.

Here is the complete list of 2017 Local Government Innovation Awardees:

City Category

- **Equity Strategic Action Planning for Neighborhoods—City of St. Paul** (overall category winner)
- Recovery Assistance Program (RAP) —Shakopee Police Department
- Water Treatment Backwash Reclamation—City of Mankato
- Chatfield Wellhead Protection—City of Chatfield
- The Morris Model —City of Morris

County Category

- **Yellow Line Project—Blue Earth County Human Services, Sheriff's Department, and Mankato Department of Public Safety** (overall category winner)
- Broadband Wireless—Traverse County
- Chisago County Regulatory Approach to Solar—Chisago County
- Child Care Licensing Online Orientation—Anoka County
- Adult Shelter Connect—Hennepin County

Township Category

- **Broadband Initiative—Sunrise Township** (overall category winner) (located in Chisago County)
- Oxford Township Water Monitoring Project—Oxford Township (located in Isanti County)
- Township Maintenance Association—Townships Working Together (located in Renville County)
- Mission Township Park Expansion—Mission Township (located in Crow Wing County)
- 2016 Gravel Road Improvement Project—Clearwater Township (located in Wright County)

School Category

- **Metier—Pillager Public Schools** (overall category winner)
- Minnetonka Academic Success Time (MAST)—Minnetonka High School
- Shaping Success for All Students: Financial Literacy, Career Pathways, and Business Partnerships—Burnsville-Eagan-Savage Public School District
- The TigerPath Initiative—Hutchinson
- Senior Internship Program—Little Falls Community High School

Native Nations Category

- **Creating Effective Culturally-Based Resources and Results for American Indian Students—Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota + Redwood Area School District** (overall category winner)
- Itasca County/Leech Lake Wellness Court—Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe + Itasca County
- Rainbow Theatre Mural Project—White Earth RTC Gizhiigin Arts Incubator + City of Mahnomon
- C5 Juvenile Restorative Justice Program—Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe + Pine County
- Keeping Children Safe Through Collaboration—Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa + Carlton County Public Health and Human Services

To learn more about the awards program and individual winners, visit lgia.umn.edu.

About LGIA

Since 2007, The Local Government Innovation Awards, have been recognizing the creative ways counties, cities, townships and schools are making Minnesota better by pursuing innovation and service redesign. The awards were created by the Humphrey School's Public and Nonprofit Leadership Center; and supported by the League of Minnesota Cities, the Minnesota Association of Townships, the Association of Minnesota Counties, and the Minnesota School Board Association. lgia.umn.edu. [@PNLCHHH](https://twitter.com/PNLCHHH)

About The Humphrey School of Public Affairs

The Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota is ranked as one of the country's top 10 professional public policy and planning schools. The School is long noted for equipping students to play key roles in public life at the local, state, national, and global level and offers six distinctive master's degrees, a doctoral degree, and six certificate programs. hhh.umn.edu.

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