Food Access Summit Organize for Equity







October 28-30, 2014

Duluth Entertainment Convention Center





Food Access Summit Schedule:

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28

6:00-8:00 pm
Evening Reception Harborside

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29

7:30-8:30 am Light Breakfast (provided)

> 8:30-12:15 pm Plenary Session

12:30-1:15 pm Keynote Speaker and Lunch (provided)

1:30-4:30 pm Breakout Workshops

4:30-5:30 pm Regional Food Network Sessions

Dinner On Your Own

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30

7:30-8:30 am Light Breakfast (provided)

8:30-9:00 am Plenary Session

9:15-Noon Breakout Workshops

Noon-1:30 pm Keynote Speaker and Lunch (provided)

1:30 pm Meetings by Sector

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Full Conference Schedule

Detailed Agenda & Workshop Descriptions

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Sponsors

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Check out the resource tables located across from registration to explore new opportunities for outreach and collaboration.

Thanks to Linden Hills Co-op and Wedge Community Co-op for providing scholarships

Special thanks for the hard work and time of the Food Access Summit Planning Committee:

Tikki Brown, Katie Costello, Connie Greer, Jay Haapala, Kristine Igo, Aby John, Molly Johnson, Ryan Johnson, Sue Letourneau, Deb Loy, Jill Martinez, Donna McDuffie, Colleen Moriarty, Joanne Mulbah, John Randolph, Suzanne Shatila, Sarah VanDusseldorp, Joe Walker, Emily Eddy White

Welcome Food Access Summit Leaders!

This event brings together leaders from agriculture, community development, education, health, hunger relief, human services and philanthropy sectors to improve access to healthy food for Minnesotans with limited financial resources. We are excited to host such a diverse group of attendees from across the state.

The fourth event in a series, this year's summit marks the public launch of the Minnesota Food Charter, a roadmap for improving food access in Minnesota. The Minnesota Food Charter was developed through more than a year of public input from stakeholders across the state. A primary goal of the Minnesota Food Charter is to provide all Minnesotans, especially those with limited financial resources, with access to healthy, affordable and safe food.

We have assembled an impressive group of speakers to highlight current efforts that improve access to healthy food and provide social policy tools, training and action-oriented ideas. The plenary sessions and workshops will educate and organize attendees to support local, state, and national efforts to make our food system equitable for all.

There is also time on the agenda for informal and formal networking to encourage and build local, regional and statewide partnerships. We are here to learn and share new ways to collaborate across sectors to improve access to healthy food for Minnesotans with limited financial resources. Please take the opportunity to meet new people and develop new relationships.

We hope this summit will prepare attendees to take action and implement an equitable food system in Minnesota through:

- Community engagement and coalition building with regional food networks across the state
- Policy, system and environmental changes
- Becoming change agents at the individual, institution, local, state and federal levels
- Implementation of Minnesota Food Charter recommendations in schools, child care centers, health care facilities, workplaces and communities

Thank you for being a leader in making our food system equitable for all.

Food Access Summit Planning Committee

AARP

Center for Prevention at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota

Hunger Solutions Minnesota

Minnesota Chippewa Tribe

Minnesota Department of Education

Minnesota Department of Health

Minnesota Department of Human Services

Minnesota FoodShare

The Food Group

University of Minnesota Extension

University of Minnesota Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute

Tuesday, October 28

6:00 - 8:00 pm

Registration Opens and Evening Reception

Enjoy heavy appetizers and refreshments, meet fellow attendees and hear from artist Seitu Jones about Create: The Community Meal.

HARBORSIDE BALLROOM SKYWALK LEVEL

Wednesday, October 29

7:30 am 7:30 – 8:30 am 8:30 – 10:00 am **Registration Opens** (City Side Convention Center) **Light Breakfast**

Welcome and Opening Plenary

Dr. Brenda Cassellius, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Education





Good Food for All:

Changing Policies, Practices and Environments to Build an Equitable Food System Mary M. Lee, Deputy Director, PolicyLink

Creative, community-based strategies and public policy initiatives are beginning to yield promising results, expanding access to healthy, affordable, high quality food into low income neighborhoods and communities of color across the nation. These efforts are transforming our food system and advancing a vision of a healthy, sustainable and equitable food system that works for everyone.

10:00 - 10:15 am

Break

10:15 – 12:15 pm

Minnesota Food Charter Launch

LAKE SUPERIOR BALLROOM

Dr. Mindy Kurzer will lead an exciting plenary session to unveil the Minnesota Food Charter. Food Access Summit participants will have an opportunity to explore the exciting array of policy and systems strategies to create a healthy food future for all Minnesotans. The Minnesota Food Charter is a document resulting from a broad-based public input process that provides a roadmap for local, state, and federal-level changes that we all can make to improve access to healthy food. Participants will join Food Charter Champions from across the state to learn about the Food Charter, discuss next steps, and hear about ways that people and organizations across Minnesota will use the Food Charter as a core part of their work.

Panel Discussion

Moderated by Janelle Waldock, Director,

Center for Prevention at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Kristine Igo, Associate Director, University of Minnesota Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute Warren McLean, Vice President of Development, Community Reinvestment Fund-USA Gina Nolte, Director of Health Promotion, Clay County Public Health

12:15 - 12:30 pm

Transition Time

Wednesday, October 29

12:30 - 1:15 pm

Keynote Speaker and Lunch Organizing for Equity: A Call to Action

HARBORSIDE BALLROOM

Pakou Hang, Executive Director, Hmong American Farmers Association

Food access has always been a contentious issue as its sits at the intersection of poverty, health, economics, and race. In the 1940's the debate raged between farm surpluses in rural areas and poverty in urban communities and most recently, it has been between the dissolvent of national government safety programs and the rise of local food projects. What does it mean now to organize for food access? Who is involved and who is missing? And how can real equity be achieved?

1:15 - 1:30 pm

Transition Time

1:30 - 2:45 pm

Breakout Workshops

Getting Started with Healthy Food Access Policies (Part 1)

Heather Wooten, Vice President of Programs, ChangeLab Solutions



Leaders around the country are seeing the economic and health benefits of policies that promote access to healthy food and limit access to unhealthy food. There are many strategies that communities can pursue, but it can be difficult to know where to start. This workshop will help you build a strategy.

- Review the research linking community environments and diet-related health outcomes
- Use a food access framework to identify successful policy approaches and how different strategies might work together
- Explore case studies of communities who have used policy to increase access to fresh, healthy food

Advancing Health Equity: Working Together to Build Healthier Communities (repeated at 3:15)

Jeannette Raymond, Community Engagement Specialist, Minnesota Department of Health



Minnesota ranks among the healthiest states in the nation. But averages do not tell the whole story. Minnesota has significant and persistent disparities in health outcomes for many populations because the opportunity for health is not available everywhere and for everyone. Please join a discussion to: learn about some of the roots of health inequities in Minnesota, hear about Minnesota Department of Health's efforts to advance health equity since the submission of its report to the Legislature; and connect with "health in all policies" efforts to strengthen the key conditions for health for all people in Minnesota.

Partnering with Community Development Finance to Create Food Equity (repeated at 3:15)

Warren McLean, Vice President of Development, Community Reinvestment Fund-USA Andriana Abariotes, Executive Director, Twin Cities LISC



Learn more about the important role of community development finance institutions (CDFIs) in creating healthy foods access. Panelists will provide an overview of how CDFIs operate and share case examples of how CDFIs in Minnesota are partnering with health, human service, and community organizations to increase food equity and access in underserved communities. Attendees will gain an increased understanding of how they can work with community development finance organizations to achieve a more equitable food system.

Wednesday, October 29

Developing and Operating Community Gardens for Food Shelves and Hunger Relief Organizations

FRENCH RIVER ROOM 2

Ed Murphy, Executive Director, Open Your Heart to Hungry and Homeless Julie Jergens, Executive Director, White Bear Lake Food Shelf Jan O'Donnell, Two Harbors Food Shelf

This workshop will highlight a new opportunity available to food shelves and hunger relief organizations throughout Minnesota. Open Your Heart to the Hungry and Homeless, a 28 year old Minnesota Foundation, is launching a new initiative in 2015 to assist communities in developing gardens generating fresh produce for food shelves in Minnesota. We will provide grants for providers to develop gardens, purchase supplies, tools, and equipment, and to improve their storage and refrigeration. In addition to details of this project, the workshop will feature representatives from two Minnesota food shelves currently operating gardens who will share their experiences.

Resources and Opportunities from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture

FRENCH RIVER ROOM 1

Paul Hugunin, Supervisor - Local Foods Program, Minnesota Department of Agriculture Zoe Hastings, Farm to School Coordinator, Minnesota Department of Agriculture Ashley Bress, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

A panel of MDA staff will present information on relevant programs, initiatives and funding opportunities including:

- Minnesota Grown
- Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program
- Farm to School
- Specialty Crop grants

Improving Access to School Breakfast: A Win for Students and Schools Alike

Debbie Leone, Outreach Coordinator, Children's Defense Fund Minnesota Elaine Cunningham, Outreach Director, Children's Defense Fund Minnesota



Eating breakfast has been shown to improve student health and achievement, but only 45 percent of the school breakfasts available to Minnesota's low-income students are actually served. Learn how the School Breakfast Initiative is helping schools to implement alternative breakfast service models proven to boost breakfast participation and increase meal reimbursements. Topics include case studies of successful breakfast programs, the link between school breakfast & student outcomes, and ways schools can use the Bridge to Benefits online screening tool to identify low-income students and improve their bottom line.

Ready, Set, Go! Hosting a Successful Food Charter Launch Event

Lisa Gemlo, Food Systems Planner, Minnesota Department of Health Margaret Adamek, PhD, Principal, Terra Soma, LLC



Interested in sharing the Minnesota Food Charter with others in your community, network, or organization? Join us for this interactive workshop on how to host a "Food Charter Launch Event." Participants will explore the Food Charter Launch Event toolkit and learn how these events can connect and empower groups to implement Food Charter strategies that matter to them. We'll cover how to get the word out to the media about the Food Charter, strategies for hosting a successful event, and effective processes for helping groups identify action steps they would like to take together. Hosting a Food Charter Launch Event is an important way to connect and galvanize people to improve healthy food access for all.

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Wednesday, October 29

It Takes Two (at least): Innovative Food System Funding Partnerships

Karen Lehman, Director, Fresh Taste (moderator)

Pakou Hang, Executive Director, Hmong American Farmers Association

Leah Hebert, Executive Director, Open Arms

Kathleen Fluegel, Executive Director, HRK Foundation

Lisa Luokkala, Healthy Duluth Area Coalition

Tony Cuneo, Executive Director, Zeppa Foundation

Alan Shannon, USDA-Food and Nutrition Service

Elena Gaarder, Nexus Community Partners

How can the supply of "good food" - food that is green, healthy, fair and affordable - grow to the extent that true equity of access to this high quality, culturally appropriate food, becomes the norm? And what ways can organizations build the kind of support necessary to make lasting change? Innovative community-based initiatives are finding ways to partner with foundations, investors, and public agencies to support new approaches to building viable food systems.

2:45 - 3:15 pm

Break with a healthy treat sponsored by the Midwest Dairy Association

Midwest Dairy Council®, an affiliate of National Dairy Council, is the nutrition education division of Midwest Dairy Association. The Council is dedicated to dairy nutrition research and education through the investment of more than 9,100 dairy farm families across 10 Midwestern States. Midwest Dairy Council is committed to child health and wellness and food access through our collaborative

programs, Fuel Up to Play 60 and the Great American Milk Drive.

LAKE SUPERIOR BALLROOM

ROOM



3:15 - 4:30 pm

Breakout Workshops

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Heather Wooten, Vice President of Programs, ChangeLab Solutions



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Partnering with Community Development Finance to Create Food Equity

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Promising Practices for Creating a Healthy Food Shelf

Kristen Klingler, Senior Public Health Specialist, Minneapolis Health Department Nora Gordon, Project Specialist - Minneapolis Healthy Living Initiative, Minneapolis Health Department Karena Johnson, Nutrition Outreach Specialist, Emergency Foodshelf Network Jilian Clearman, Coordinator - Phillips Community Healthy Living Initiative, Waite House - Pillsbury United Communities



Food shelves across Minnesota are increasingly interested in providing quality, nutritious foods to individuals and families in need. A number of promising practices are emerging to direct these efforts including: establishing healthy foods policies to guide decision-making, re-evaluating inventory and purchasing practices to prioritize healthy items, promoting nutritious choices through merchandising and layout changes, and communicating to donors the need for healthy options. Participants will learn how to increase the amount and demand for nutritious foods by adapting these cost-effective strategies to fit their organization's goals and capacity; and have the opportunity to share successful practices at their food shelf.

Farmers' Equity: Cultivating Justice for Minnesota Growers

Katie Costello, University of Minnesota School of Public Health (moderator) Joyce Ford, Co-Owner, Blue Fruit Farm



Noreen Thomas, Co-Owner, Doubting Thomas Farms

Hli Xyooj, Senior Staff Attorney/Hmong Community Outreach Coordinator, Farmers' Legal Action Group

In this roundtable discussion, three panelists will briefly describe their own personal experiences with equity issues in food production. A moderator will lead the panelists and audience in an engaging, transformative discussion of ways to make food production more equitable in Minnesota. The discourse will be loosely structured and adapted based on audience input.

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Wednesday, October 29

No Child Left Hungry:

The Story Behind the Advocacy to Ensure no Child is Ever Turned Away from a School Lunch Counter



Jessica Webster, Staff Attorney, Legal Services Advocacy Project

Samuel Chu, National Organizer, MAZON

Colleen Moriarty, Executive Director, Hunger Solutions Minnesota

This workshop describes how advocates and community members collaborated to end "turnaways" in Minnesota's lunch rooms and to guarantee a hot, nutritious meal to 61,000 low-income Minnesota children. This year, the Minnesota Legislature eliminated the reduced-price lunch fee for 61,000 low-income families - the result of a years-long collaboration led by MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, Legal Aid, and Hunger Solutions. In this workshop, we will explore the policy and political impact of this victory, and more importantly the implications and lessons we learned about how to use research and media, organize our communities, craft winnable campaigns and build meaningful partnerships.

Exploration of Effective Collaboration Between Minnesota Food Networks/Policy Councils



Jamie Bain, Extension Educator, University of Minnesota Extension Anne Dybsetter, Extension Educator, University of Minnesota Extension Noelle Harden, Extension Educator, University of Minnesota Extension

Are you part of a food network, council, or similar group working together? Have you wondered how collaboration can help increase access to healthy food? Explore common challenges, celebrate successes, and learn together about regional food networks and policy councils across the state. Through facilitated discussion, we will highlight what is needed for effective collaboration--at local, regional, and even statewide scales.

4:30 - 5:30 pm

Regional Food Network Sessions

Northeast (5-7 pm at Tycoons Ale House and Eatery, 132 E. Superior St., Duluth)

Northwest
 ST. LOUIS RIVER ROOM
 Central
 ROOM "L"
 Southeast/Southcentral
 FRENCH RIVER ROOM 1
 Southwest
 SPLIT ROCK ROOM 2
 Metro

Gather with neighbors from your region to engage in conversations and prepare for meaningful collaboration. Decide together how you, your organization, and others can work together to apply what you have learned to expanding healthy food access in your region. Healthy snacks will be provided.

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BALLROOM

Thursday, October 30

7:30 am Registration Opens 7:30 – 8:30 am Light Breakfast 8:30 – 9:00 am Morning Plenary

Dave Frederickson, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

GROUND LEVEL LOBBY

LAKE SUPERIOR BALLROOM

9:00 – 9:15 am Transition Time

9:15 – 10:30 am **Breakout Workshops**

Building Power for Food Justice Through Organizing (Part 1)

Bridgette Rongitsch, Senior Project Manager, Grassroots Solutions

Cassi Johnson, Senior Project Manager, Center for Prevention at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota

ROOM "O"

Deepen your practice as a food system leader by exploring the concept of power, the role of power in food justice, and the key elements of building sustainable, inclusive, collective power for the movement. Learn new skills through this highly interactive training and then apply them by connecting with other advocates to explore common values and ways to come together for collective action.

Door prizes will be given away during the morning plenary session (must be present to win)!

Innovation in Food Access: Three Mobile Food Programs Taking Food Access to the Streets (repeated at 10:45)

ROOM "L"

Leah Driscoll, Twin Cities Mobile Market Manager, Amherst H. Wilder Foundation Lisa Horn, Executive Director, The Open Door Brian Noy, Director of Operations - CityKid Enterprises, Urban Ventures

Access to healthy food is a basic right everyone should have, yet in many communities, it's become a luxury only some can afford. In this panel discussion, hear from three organizations that have taken to the streets to address food access using mobile distribution models: The Open Door, a mobile food shelf; the Twin Cities Mobile Market, a mobile, low-cost grocery store; and Urban Ventures' CityKid Enterprises mobile farmers market. Panelists will share their successes, challenges, and work done to address local food access policies. Participants will leave with practical lessons to consider for starting their own mobile food operation.

Hunger 50+: Unique Challenges and Solutions

Hiram Lopez-Landin, Program Analyst, AARP Foundation Jay Haapala, Community Outreach Director, AARP Minnesota Molly Johnson, SNAP Outreach Coordinator, AARP Minnesota



People ages 50-59 faced an amplified susceptibility to food insecurity during the recession and their economic recovery is proving to be slower than families and even older adults. Because there is so little available data on people ages 50-59 and SNAP, AARP Foundation fielded a report entitled "SNAP Access Barriers Facing Low-Income 50-59 Year-olds" to examine the barriers to enrollment among low-income people ages 50-59 and proposes means to overcome those barriers. Hunger for people in older age brings unique challenges and will require new solutions. We will address both in this interactive discussion.

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Thursday, October 30

Models of Hunger and Nutrition Intervention in Healthcare Settings

John Randolph, SNAP Outreach Associate, Hunger Solutions Minnesota Marna Canterbury, Director - Community Health and Wellness, Lakeview Hospital Foundation Stephanie Molliconi, Senior Health Improvement Program Manager,

Center for Prevention at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota

Elizabeth Stone, Program Director, Valley Outreach

This panel will bring voices from anti-hunger organizations and health care providers to discuss innovative ways to address food insecurity in patients and improve nutrition and health outcomes.

Keeping Local Food Producers in the Local Food System Pipeline

David Nicholson, Minnesota Department of Human Services Julie Ristau, On the Commons



SPLIT ROCK ROOM 2

Improving access to healthy, locally produced foods is often considered from a consumer perspective but ensuring consumer access hinges upon addressing the challenges surrounding local food producers. As the bumper sticker aptly observes: "No Farms, No Food." Relevant to anyone who relies upon local producers to meet business or mission goals, this session will elaborate some of the challenges related to maintaining a thriving local producer community and propose an approach for addressing those challenges drawing on historical and contemporary examples.

The Importance of Food Skills and Environmental Supports for Children and Families

Jamie Bain, Extension Educator, University of Minnesota Extension Kam Schroeder, SNAP-Ed Educator, University of Minnesota Extension



The need for food skills is a theme of the Minnesota Food Charter. Come explore how to implement new food skills trainings at your organization whether in the school, childcare, emergency food, or other community setting. This workshop will consist of hands-on demonstrations, facilitated discussion, and promotion of food skills educational offerings across the state. In this workshop you will learn how to advance the food skills of your organization, your partners, and the clients you serve through the promotion of SNAP Education (SNAP-Ed) offerings, including hands-on education, provider education, as well as policy, systems, and environmental approaches.

Become a Food Charter Champion: Working Together for a Healthy Food Future

Jenna Carter and Christian Knights, Center for Prevention at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota



Interested in being a Food Charter Champion? Join us for this interactive session, where participants will hear from leaders across the state who will implement policy and systems strategies contained in the Food Charter. Participants will also explore with each other the Food Charter strategies that matter most to them, identifying ways that they can work together to implement these changes. This exciting workshop offers Food Access Summit participants a useful and structured way to connect with others and lay the groundwork for change.

Thursday, October 30

Advancing Cultural Responsiveness in Hunger Relief: Barriers, Assessment, and Improvement Opportunities for Food Shelves

SPLIT ROCK ROOM 1

Marny Xiong, Emergency Foodshelf Network Laura Skubic, Emergency Foodshelf Network Clare Brumback, CEAP Asha Mohamud, Neighborhood House Christine Miller, Neighborhood House

Instead of learning to be culturally competent we must learn to be culturally responsive, which is an on-going, continuous effort to always be learning, listening, and open to what is needed. This workshop will explore the barriers that clients experience, spotlight food shelves and their work, and share a toolkit for food shelves to self-assess and begin improvement efforts.

10:30 – 10:45 am

Transition Time

10:45 - Noon

Breakout Workshops

Building Power for Food Justice Through Organizing (Part 2)



Cassi Johnson, Senior Project Mgr., Center for Prevention at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Bridgette Rongitsch, Senior Project Manager, Grassroots Solutions

Deepen your practice as a food system leader by exploring the concept of power, the role of power in food justice, and the key elements of building sustainable, inclusive, collective power for the movement. Learn new skills through this highly interactive training and then apply them by connecting with other advocates to explore common values and ways to come together for collective action.

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Indigenous Foods and Food Security

Jeff Metoxen, Director, Tsyunhehkwa Program of Oneida Tribe (WI) Simone Senogles, Indigenous Environmental Network Bruce Savage, Spirit Lake Sugar



Reconnecting American Indian communities to their sovereign foods and engaging in locally owned food enterprises are important strategies in creating a more equitable food system. Panelists will discuss a range of unique approaches including production, distribution, promotion and education around indigenous foods.

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Thursday, October 30

Food Hubs: A Center for Local Food Systems

David Nicholson, Minnesota Department of Human Services (moderator)
Melissa Mattson, Administrative Services Manager, Lakes Country Service Cooperative
Jim Gehrke, Awareness Coordinator, Minnesota Valley Action Council

FRENCH RIVER ROOM 2

Food hubs work with many small, local farmers to create a large-scale supply of fresh, healthy food. Join us for a panel presentation to learn about food hub efforts and how you can get involved in developing local food systems.

Agua Gorda Cooperative: A Latino Agricultural Business Model

Jaime Villalaz, Greater MN Business Development Specialist, Latino Economic Development Center Javier Garcia, Co-op Member, Agua Gorda Cooperative Rodrigo Cala, Certified Organic Farmer, Cala Farm, LLC



In this workshop, you will learn about the Latino Economic Development Center's role in supporting small Latino farming cooperatives in rural Minnesota.

\$75 million & Counting: Real Food Challenge Student Campaigns for a Just & Sustainable Food System FRENCH RIVER

Katie Blanchard, Midwest Coordinator, Real Food Challenge Karen Weldon, Regional Field Organizer, Real Food Challenge



Engage with dynamic organizing and leadership tools and case studies from the Real Food Challenge (RFC) - the largest student organization in the country dedicated to building a just and sustainable food system. RFC spans 300+ college and university campuses. Since its founding in 2008, the campaign's primary goal has been to shift \$1 billion in existing food spending by college and universities towards local, fair, ecologically sound, and humanely produced food – 'real food.' To date, RFC campaigns have won over \$75 million in real food purchasing commitments from leading colleges and universities.

The Impact of Food Insecurity on School Success

Dr. Vijay Chawla, Mayo Clinic Health System



A child's first three years are a time of dramatic change in development which sets the stage for school readiness and adult health. Adequate nutrients are essential to support this rapid growth so even mild nutritional deficits can be harmful to healthy growth and the development of skills crucial for school success including memory, emotional stability, and social skills. Participants will gain an understanding of the short and long term negative impacts of childhood food insecurity from birth into adulthood and the need for collective impact to address hunger.

Thursday, October 30

Noon – 1:30 pm **Keynote Speaker and Lunch**

Real Food: Growing a Multi-Sector Movement for Transformative Change

Navina Khanna, Fellow, Movement Strategy Center

LAKE SUPERIOR BALLROOM

This session will draw on lessons from historical and current social movements to highlight the many roles and approaches that each of us, as part of a movement ecosystem, can take to grow a stronger, more strategic, winning movement for transformative food systems change.

Door prizes will be given away during this session (must be present to win)!

1:30 pm Meetings by Sector:

Farmers Markets (1:30-4:30 pm)

ST. LOUIS RIVER ROOM

Regional Food Networks Leadership (1:30-3:30 pm)

FRENCH RIVER ROOM 2

Summit Evaluation

An evaluation will be sent out the week after the summit to be completed online. After you complete the evaluation, you can enter to win a **COMPLIMENTARY TWO NIGHT STAY AT THE HOLIDAY INN & SUITES**in Downtown Duluth.

200 West First Street

Duluth, MN 55802



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Seitu Jones

As a public artist, I have exhibited and created commissioned work nationally and extensively within Minnesota. My current artistic and professional interests are centered in environmental sustainability, food production, and food justice. My community and artistic leadership has been recognized through fellowships from the McKnight and Bush Foundations, Minnesota State Arts Board, and a Sally Award for Vision from the Ordway Music Theatre. Create was launched with a Joyce Award from the Chicago based Joyce Foundation. I was a Loeb Fellow at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design and a Senior Fellow in Agricultural Systems at the University of Minnesota and continue to serve on the faculty of Goddard College in Washington State. My Board of Directors service includes the Jerome Foundation, AfroEco, Urban Boat Builders, the Capitol Region Watershed District and Frogtown Farms. I was featured in a Minnesota Originals program on Twin Cities Public Television. I have partnered with Public Art Saint Paul for more than 20 years on projects in Frogtown and through the Central Corridor and am excited about our collaboration to make the food system more visible and accessible. At its heart, Create is really about love. As Martin Luther King, Jr. reminded us - the "beloved community" is the basis of a healthy society.



Dr. Brenda Cassellius, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Education

Since her appointment as Commissioner of Education in 2010, Dr. Brenda Cassellius has endeavored to enact comprehensive education reform that will benefit every child throughout Minnesota. Her straightforward, community-driven approach toward providing the best education possible has resulted in a remarkable list of accomplishments just a year and a half into her term as commissioner.

Under her leadership, the Minnesota Department of Education applied for and received a waiver from the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law, allowing for a better, fairer, more accurate and supportive accountability system. MDE was awarded a \$45 million Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge grant to further develop and strengthen early education efforts. The Department was also awarded a \$28.2 Federal Public Charter Schools grant to design and implement high quality charter schools.

In her 23-year career as a classroom teacher, administrator and superintendent in school systems both in Minnesota and Tennessee, Dr. Brenda Cassellius led reform, redesign and change efforts that put students first, focused on achievement, and have resulted in better outcomes for all students. Dr. Cassellius believes that change can happen quickly if it is purposeful, collaborative, and grounded in effective strategies.



Mary M. Lee, Deputy Director, PolicyLink

Mary Lee helps guide the PolicyLink Center for Health Equity and Place, and provides technical assistance and training to public and private agencies collaborating to build healthy communities. A graduate of Boalt Hall School of Law, University of California, Berkeley, Mary is a practicing attorney with more than 25 years of experience using civil rights, land use, and economic development strategies to revitalize neighborhoods and enhance public participation in the policy arena. At PolicyLink she has co-authored reports on access to healthy food, the built environment, and the impact of place and race on health. She also teaches courses on law, public policy, and civil rights. Mary stays true to her motto "think globally, act locally" by remaining active in local politics in Los Angeles and serving on the Los Angeles Food Policy Council.



Dr. Edward Ehlinger, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Health

Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton appointed Edward Ehlinger, MD, MSPH, to serve as Minnesota Commissioner of Health in Jan. 2011. Ehlinger is responsible for directing the work of the Minnesota Department of Health. MDH is the state's lead public health agency, responsible for protecting, maintaining and improving the health of all Minnesotans. The department has approximately 1,400 employees in the Twin Cities area and seven offices in Greater Minnesota.

Prior to being appointed commissioner, Ehlinger served as director and chief health officer for Boynton Health Service at the University of Minnesota, from 1995-2011. He has also served as an adjunct professor in the Division of Epidemiology and Community Health at the U of M School of Public Health. From 1980 to 1995, Ehlinger served as director of Personal Health Services for the Minneapolis Health Department.



Mindy Kurzer, PhD, Director, University of Minnesota Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute

Dr. Mindy S. Kurzer is a nutritional scientist and Professor in the Department of Food Science and Nutrition and holds a joint appointment in the Division of Hematology, Oncology and Transplantation in the Department of Medicine. She is Director of Graduate Studies for the intercollege nutrition graduate program and Director of the University of Minnesota Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute.

Dr. Kurzer received her B.A. in History from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1973, and her M.S. and Ph.D. in Nutrition from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1979 and 1984, respectively. She was a NATO Postdoctoral Fellow at the National Nutrition Institute in Rome and Odense University in Denmark from 1985-86, and a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Reproductive Endocrinology Center at the University of California, San Francisco, from 1986-1989. She has been on the faculty of the University of Minnesota since 1989.

Dr. Kurzer received the International Life Sciences Institute Future Leader Award in 1992 and was a Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) Academic Leadership Fellow from 2006-07. She currently serves on the NCCAM Clinical Sciences study section and regularly reviews for both the Department of Defense Breast and Prostate Cancer grant programs.

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Pakou Hang, Executive Director, Hmong American Farmers Association

Pakou's childhood was spent picking cucumbers for Gedney Pickles and growing and selling vegetables at the local farmers markets. She has over 20 years' experience with farming and vegetable production and is a former member of the St. Paul Farmers Market Board of Directors as well as a 2011 participant to The White House Project's Plate to Politics Summit in Wisconsin. In 2001, her family was featured in the book, Renewing the Countryside Minnesota, and she recently teamed up with Renewing the Countryside again to connect Hmong farmers with Twin Cities chefs committed to purchasing local vegetables. Pakou also worked with the Healthy Foods Healthy Lives Institute at the University of Minnesota to examine traditional Hmong medicinal plants and developed a curriculum to teach Hmong American elementary students about Hmong traditions in health and healing. In 2010, Pakou worked with the Latino Economic Development Center to spearhead a feasibility study on challenges and opportunities facing immigrant farmers in Minnesota.

Pakou has worked for over 12 years as a community organizer and graduated from the University of Minnesota in 2008 with a Masters in Political Science and from Yale University in 1999 with a B.A. also in Political Science. She is a recipient of the prestigious Hubert H. Humphrey Public Leadership Award, the Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans, and the newly inaugurated Bush Leadership Fellowship which was the impetus for the formation of HAFA.



Dave Frederickson, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Dave Frederickson, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture Governor Mark Dayton appointed Dave Frederickson to the position of Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture in January 2011. Frederickson's family roots in farming go back to 1873, and he and his wife, Kay operated a farm in Murdock for more than 20 years.

Frederickson was elected to the Minnesota State Senate in 1986, and was reelected to the post in 1990. He represented constituents in Swift, Yellow Medicine, Lac Qui Parle, Chippewa, and Redwood Counties. From 1991 to 2002, Frederickson served as president of the Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU). He subsequently served as president of the National Farmers Union (NFU) from 2002 to 2006. In both organizations, he worked on federal farm policy and other issues important to farmers and ranchers. From 2007 to 2010, Frederickson worked as agricultural outreach director for U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar. In that capacity, he helped lead listening sessions around the state and talked frequently with Minnesota farmers, ranchers and rural residents.

Commissioner Frederickson's farm background and his wide range of experience in public service have given him unique insights into the challenges facing Minnesota's agricultural industry. As a state senator and in his positions at MFU and NFU, Frederickson earned a reputation as a strong advocate for farmers and agricultural issues, education and tax reform. Today, he is particularly focused on maintaining and building Minnesota's food safety programs and on helping Minnesota farmers deal with unstable commodity prices and rising input costs. Farm groups from around the state praise him for his personable approach and his ability to work with people of all backgrounds and perspectives toward common goals.



Navina Khanna, Fellow, Movement Strategy Center

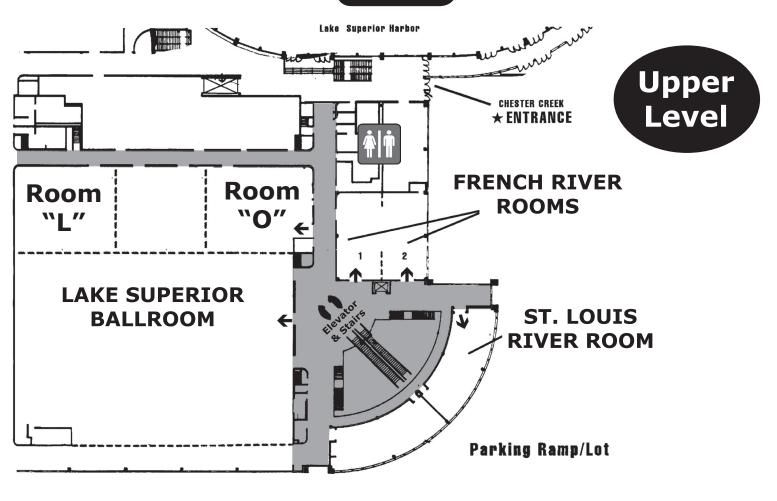
Navina Khanna is growing a world grounded in respect, reverence, and love. She is a co-founder and the Field Director of Live Real, a national initiative dedicated to amplifying the power of young people in frontline communities shaping radically different food systems through policy and practice. As a Movement Strategy Center Innovation Fellow, she applies lessons from other social justice movements to build a stronger, more aligned, and strategic food justice movement.

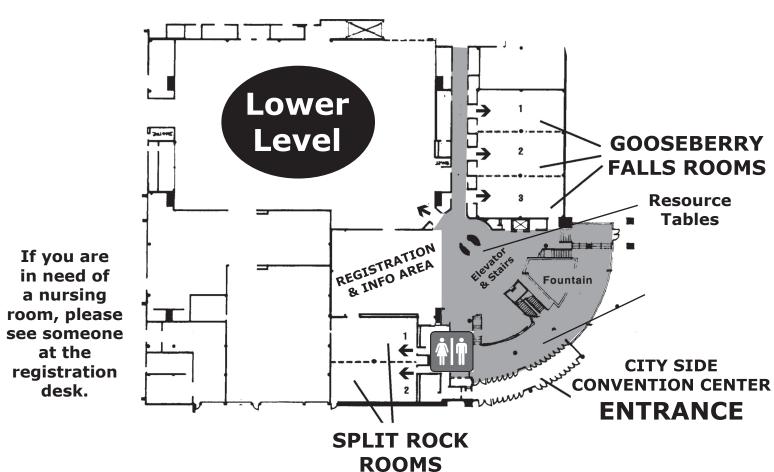
Her commitment to creating equitable, ecological systems runs deep: Navina has spent nearly 15 years focused on transformative change through agriculture and food systems. Based in Oakland, she's worked as an educator, community organizer, artivist and policy advocate transforming local, regional, and national agri-food systems from field to vacant lot to table.

Navina holds an MS in International Agricultural Development from UC Davis, where she developed curriculum for the first undergraduate major in sustainable agri-food systems at a Land-Grant University, and a BA from Hampshire College, where she focused on using music and dance for ecological justice. She is also a certified Vinyasa yoga teacher and permaculturalist. A first generation South Asian American, Navina's worldview is shaped by growing up — and growing food — in the U.S. and in India.

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Map





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