

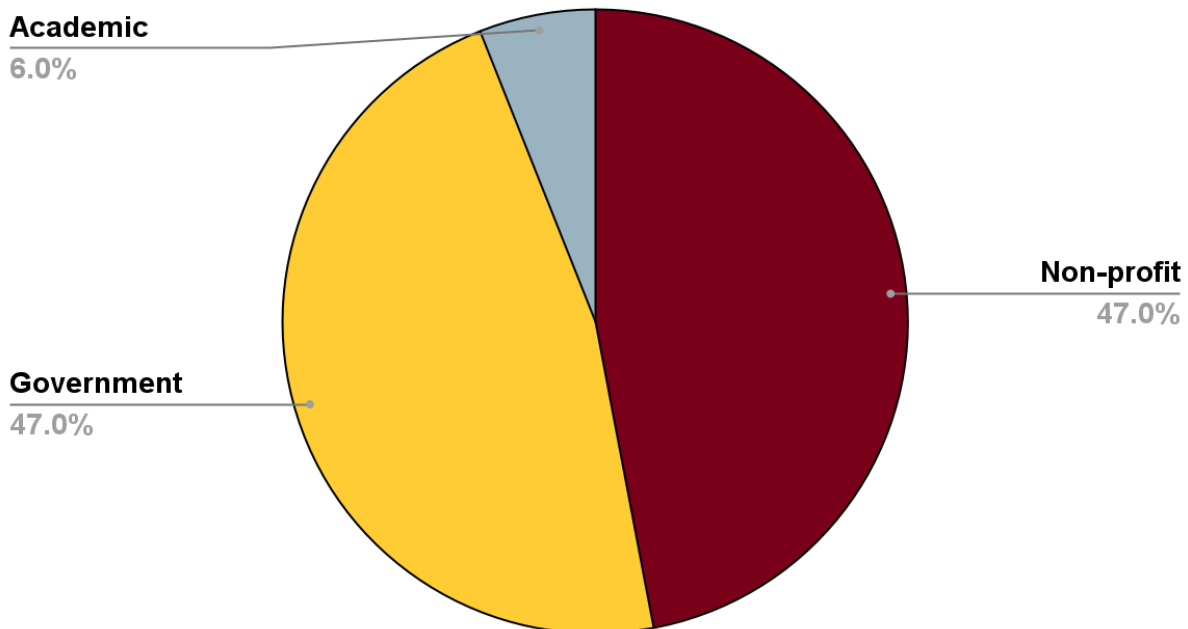
2021-2022 Capstone Project List

Summary:

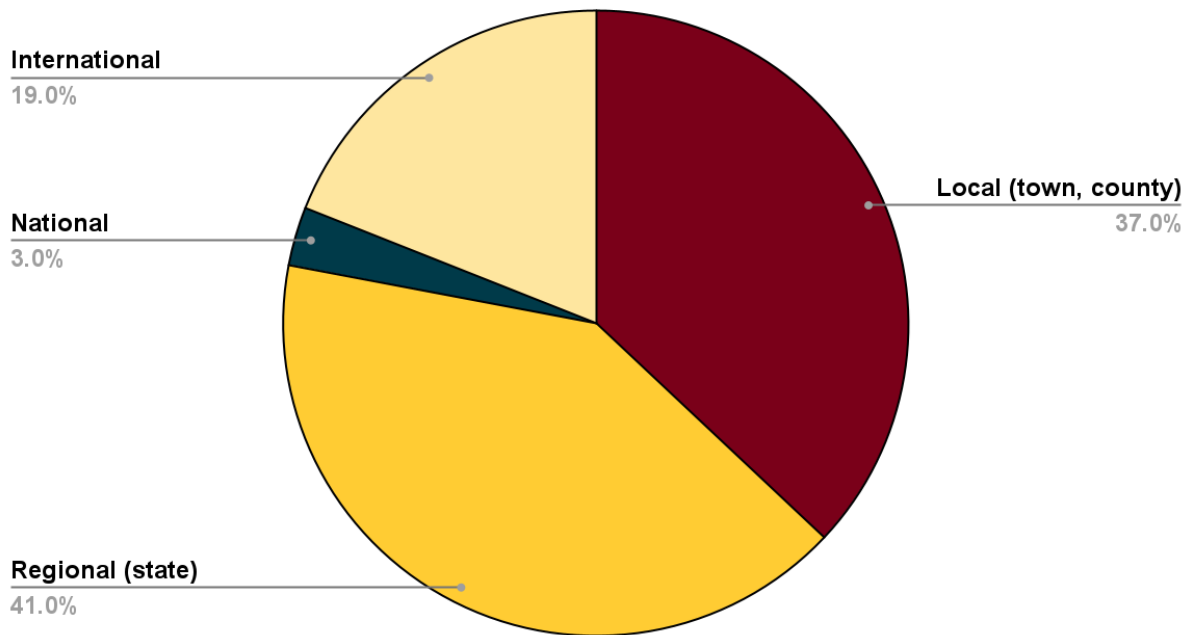
The Capstone Program at the Humphrey School in academic year 2021-2022 (spring & summer).

- involved **8** HHH faculty,
- overseeing **30** capstones,
- involving **122** students,
- collaborating with **28** distinct partners.

Capstone Partners by Sector



Capstone Partners by Scope



The following Capstone Projects encompassed a minimum of **15,372** hours of student-led work.

Spring 2022

Global Policy

Faculty: Mary Curtin

Projects: (3)

Lessons on Successful Assistance Matchmaking for Weapons Nonproliferation

Many states require technical assistance to fulfill their obligations under a range of treaties, conventions, resolutions, and other international instruments to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Towards that end, the United Nations 1540 Committee has a mandate to match country requests for assistance with appropriate providers for implementing efforts to meet the obligations of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004).¹ Unfortunately, the volume and disparate nature of requests for assistance have resulted in the 1540 Committee struggling to establish effective assistance partnerships. Gaps in nonproliferation assistance exist despite 1540 efforts and those of other assistance mechanisms, such as the G7 Global Partnership. This research project aims to identify best practices for establishing assistance partnerships in order to craft recommendations for improving 1540 processes. This study begins with a brief overview of the 1540 Committee and why assistance partnerships are a priority for preventing WMD proliferation.

Community Partner: The Stimson Center

Team: Jay Anderson (MPP), Maclan Campbell (MHR), Tianyu Gao (MPP), Peter Mayer (MPP), Corey Schirmer (MPP)

Human Rights Activism in Minnesota: A Capstone Project & Exhibit Blueprint

The capstone team was tasked with facilitating the transfer of selected archival materials from The Advocates for Human Rights to the Archives to process and analyze historical materials in the context of transnational human rights activities in Minnesota. The ultimate goal for this capstone project was for the team to present a blueprint for a proposed exhibit that showcases Minnesota's human rights legacy through archival research. In considering these opportunities and milestones, we have made every effort to balance the tension of the abundant history of human rights activism with the deep and persistent inequities in Minnesota. Through this project, we have been called to honor the life work of so many dedicated individuals while also acknowledging the presence of white saviorism, white supremacy, and the title towards western dominance in human rights activism.

Community Partner: University of Minnesota Human Rights Program and The Advocates for Human Rights

Team: Heidi Jedlicka Halvarson (MPA), Ariana Kopycinski (MHR), Alexis Milton (MHR)

Examination of the Role of Civil Society in Adopting International Standard Commitments: A Landscape Analysis of MENA Region and Gulf Countries in Comparison with International Best Practices

This report offers an integrated examination of the role of civil society organizations in influencing governments to adopt international commitments. The study was commissioned by the University of Minnesota and International Republican Institute (IRI) as part of an effort to promote the spread of democratic practices in the MENA and Gulf countries Regions. Under the principles of sustainable development, open government partnerships, climate change, data openness and transparency, public service provision and infrastructure development, the graduate consultants were asked to identify and evaluate the level of adoption and commitments to these international standard commitments, as well as involvement in

international partnerships, by countries in both regions compared to best practices of civil society organizations that managed to influence the public policy making process to implement these standards.

Community Partner: International Republican Institute (IRI)

Team: Colin Wolff (MPP), Matthew Byrd (MPP), Noran Aly (MDP), Tenzin Nyima (MHR)

Leadership and Management

Faculty: Kevin Gerdes

Projects: (2)

Barriers, Breakthroughs, and Backbone of Rural Elected Women

Women are underrepresented in elected positions across all levels of government, especially in rural Minnesota. 100 Rural Women is a nonprofit organization focused on facilitating leadership opportunities for rural women. Its mission is important because rural women not only experience a lack of parity, but they also deal with less access to services, infrastructure and paid employment opportunities (Pozarny, 2016). For this report, we facilitated 19 interviews with rural women in elected office across the state in order to understand the motivators, barriers, and supports needed to assist rural women in their pathways to elected office. We found many women face barriers such as sexism, not knowing the basics of how to run a campaign, and difficulty balancing their various responsibilities. Our findings suggest that a support network based on providing meaningful connection, as well as training on the barriers encountered would be an important tool for getting more rural women into leadership positions.

Community Partner: 100 Rural Women

Team: Naa Korkoi Larmie (MHR), Delaney Stekr (MPP), Caitlyn Walker (MPP)

Keeping Families Together: A Policy Report on the American Families United Act

Since the enactment of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) in 1996, 270,000 spouses of United States (U.S.) citizens have been deported and an additional 340,000 legal immigration applications for spouses of U.S. citizens have been refused (National Immigration Forum, 2021). Nearly 1.7 million U.S. citizens have a spouse who is undocumented (Connor, 2021). American Families United began their work in 2013 to pass the American Families United Act and provide much-needed relief to families, specifically for noncitizen spouses of U.S. citizens. This report aims to aid American Families United in its advocacy by illuminating the policy landscape surrounding immigration at the federal level, informing strategies to build bipartisanship support for the American Families United Act, and providing information that may help build the organization and align with similar organizations in the migrant advocacy space.

Community Partner: American Families United

Team: Eric Ofori-Atta (MPA), Eric Ryu (MHR), Brenda Urueta (MHR)

Science, Technology and Environmental Policy (STEP)

Faculty: Elise Harrington

Projects: (6)

Exploring Policy Recommendations for Promoting Climate Resilient Watersheds

The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is a state agency whose mission is "to improve and protect Minnesota's water and soil resources by working in partnership with local organizations and private landowners." BWSR administers the One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) program which brings together local governments and stakeholders within watershed

boundaries to prioritize shared issues and goals into a comprehensive planning document. Currently, there is a lack of clarity about the extent to which Comprehensive Watershed Management Plans (CWMPs) created through the IWIP program are acknowledging and/or incorporating climate change and associated impacts. The goal of this report is to convey the results of our investigation of the extent to which currently published CWMPs are addressing and/or incorporating climate resilience strategies, to support BWSR's ultimate goal of creating more resilient watersheds throughout Minnesota, and to provide recommendations for encouraging increased adoption of climate resilience strategies.

Community Partner: Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)

Team: Sean Cullen (STEP), Hannah Dunn (STEP), Noah Fribley (STEP), Kayla Kirtz (MURP), Madeline K. Lydon (STEP)

Creating a Community-Driven Climate Action Matrix

Hennepin County's Climate Action Plan (CAP) focuses primarily on reducing disparities in vulnerable populations while pursuing ambitious climate action goals. The County seeks to foster a supportive partnership with community-driven projects from local organizations to meet climate action and resilience goals through community engagement and outreach. In collaboration with the University of Minnesota, Hennepin University Partnership (HUP), and Hennepin County's Climate and Resilience Department, our project's objectives are to provide Hennepin County with an inventory matrix of local community-driven projects within the County. Our results provide Hennepin County opportunities to engage with local community-driven partners committed to climate action and resilience.

Community Partner: Hennepin County: Climate and Resilience Department

Team: Bethany K. Olson (MPP), Cade Bolen (STEP), Chandra Her (STEP), Laszlo Marton (MURP), Trey Harsch (STEP)

Climate-Smart Practice Adoption and Carbon Markets in Minnesota

Climate change is a major concern globally and locally, and agriculture can help mitigate emissions through climate-smart practices. To capitalize on this carbon sequestration opportunity, agricultural carbon markets are emerging in Minnesota and elsewhere as a way to compensate farmers for their role in reducing emissions and carbon sequestration. However, there are barriers and concerns with carbon markets and adopting climate-smart practices. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) was interested in investigating the gaps in current carbon market payment systems, policy mechanisms or other solutions, and the most appropriate role for MDA to play in increasing climate-smart practice adoption. To explore these questions, our research team conducted a background literature review with a stakeholder analysis and completed 26 key informant interviews with farmers and representatives from government, education, business, and others.

Community Partner: Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Team: Maddie Hansen-Connell (STEP), Kathleen Murphey (STEP), Jacqueline Oakes Bui (MPP/MPH), Megan Schmaltz (STEP), Ian Williams (MPA)

Effective Environmental Nonprofit Outreach & Stakeholder Engagement

Strategies: A Roadmap for the MN350 & the ECO Team

The goal of this project was to gather information from the literature as well as from staff and key volunteers within MN350 as a means of identifying opportunities to improve the functionality of the organization as a whole to more effectively engage a multiracial, statewide base of Minnesotans in the climate justice movement. We conducted a literature review to develop a foundation for our analysis, identifying the key areas from which to assess organizational effectiveness. Volunteer engagement and retention, effective environmental

engagement and outreach strategies, as well as internal nonprofit communications strategies were identified as crucial elements to address in the literature review.

Community Partner: MN350

Team: Samiira Husein (MHR), Lily Johnson (STEP), Barb Thees (MPA)

Minnesota Public Utility Commission: Making Public Data Accessible

This report thoroughly scrutinizes the current online capabilities of the Minnesota Public Utility Commission - specifically regarding online accessibility. Much of the project's timeline was spent on background research of the PUC's role as a data-collector and a data-repository. Research of other state utility commissions and similar public institutions in Minnesota (i.e. Minnesota Department of Health) were helpful in the creation of comparison-based recommendations. Functionality of the PUC was graded in comparison to Wisconsin, Arizona, and Washington's utility commissions.

Community Partner: Minnesota Public Utility Commission

Team: Sarah Krueger (MHR), Andrew Lupton (MURP), Mark Teklinski (STEP), Jennifer Williamson (MPA)

Strategies for Proactive Engagement: Expanding PACE Program Utilization by Women and Minority Business Enterprises in Minnesota

The St. Paul Port Authority (SPPA) is a national leader in administering financing for clean energy and energy efficiency projects through MinnPACE, the state's Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program. Since 2021, the SPPA has completed over 355 MinnPACE projects worth over \$225 million. Going forward they identified an opportunity to pursue a more equitable program by advancing additional projects with women and minority-owned business enterprises (WMBEs). The capstone team was tasked with helping the SPPA target their MinnPACE program to WMBEs. To identify the challenges and opportunities of expanding MinnPACE to include more projects with WMBEs, the capstone team conducted background research, a demographic analysis, and interviews with businesses, project participants, and additional stakeholders in the Minneapolis-St.Paul area.

Community Partner: Saint Paul Port Authority

Team: Dillon Ackerman (STEP), Josh Anderson (STEP), Eric Barry (STEP), Lauren Gray (STEP), Emily Hestbech (MURP)

Social Policy

Faculty: Maria Hanratty

Projects: (3)

Identifying Best Practices to Improve Access to PSEO

The PSEO program is a dual enrollment program offering for high school students in Minnesota to earn both high school and college credits simultaneously at no cost to the student. Minnesota statute prescribes a funding formula and eligibility criteria for schools whose students enroll in the PSEO program. In Minnesota, inconsistent implementation of the PSEO program across the state has led to too few students utilizing the program; therefore, there is a need for more state guidance on

implementation. The main barriers to increased enrollment in the PSEO program are communication, eligibility requirements, and funding. This report investigates how other states' dual enrollment programs operate through state statutes, handbooks, reports, and other supplemental methods and synthesizes the different policies across the United States, with an emphasis on Colorado, Ohio, Texas, and Utah as potential models for Minnesota.

Community Partner: People for PSEO

Team: McKenna Buisman (MPP), Tor Chavarria (MPP), Kobey Layne (MPP), Jo Rutkiewicz (MPP)

Breaking Down Barriers: An Evaluation of Hennepin County's Homeless to Housing Program

This report summarizes findings from an evaluation of Hennepin County's Homeless to Housing program, which began taking client referrals in November 2021. The program provides housing-focused case management services to reach vulnerable single adults who are homeless. The purpose of our evaluation at this stage was to compare the program to other models, identify any service inefficiencies or disparities in early implementation, and present recommendations for improvement. The primary methods included a literature review, an internal document review, quantitative analysis of anonymous client referral data, and qualitative interviews with staff.

Community Partner: Hennepin County

Team: Lyndon Carlson (MPP), Katlyn Rohrer (MPP), Rachel Steiner (MHR)

Recommendations for a Proposed Hennepin County Guaranteed Basic Income Pilot Program

This paper provides foundational information and background research on guaranteed basic income (GBI) programs to inform Hennepin County on their proposed pilot GBI program. Guaranteed income follows a targeted approach to address income inequality through providing cash payments directly to individuals. The payment is unconditional, meaning there are no strings attached and there are no work requirements. Before launching a pilot program, Hennepin County has prioritized advancing racial equity and minimizing benefit cliffs. Benefit cliffs are especially important to Hennepin County because additional monthly income could impact enrollment and benefit amounts that households may currently receive from social benefit programs.

Community Partner: Hennepin County

Team: Lucas Foley (MPP), Shonni Krengel (MHR), Shelby Rutzick (MPP), Calvin Waller (MPP)

Transportation Planning and Policy

Faculty: Lyssa Leitner

Projects: (3)

Saint Paul Electric Vehicle Charging Plan Recommendations

This report will identify key actions that the City of Saint Paul can take in the near and long term to implement a public electric vehicle (EV) charging network. Saint Paul municipal leaders have an opportunity to lead as an early adopter in electrifying transportation in the city. Electric vehicles have numerous health and community benefits including improving residents' health by minimizing tailpipe emissions of harmful particulate matter and reducing greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. Local and national trends of electric vehicle ownership are summarized, including case studies of peer cities that have adopted electric vehicle charging plans.

Community Partner: Saint Paul Public Works

Team: Kira Berglund (MPA), Barrett Clausen (MURP), Kody Olson (MPP/MPH), Timothy Shebesta (MURP), Sarah Wagner (MPP)

Planning for Essential Destinations: An analysis for the future arterial bus rapid transit F Line

This report evaluates essential destinations along the future arterial bus rapid transit F Line. The F Line is scheduled to replace route 10 and run along the Central Avenue corridor from downtown Minneapolis to the Northtown Mall in Blaine. While providing transit service for essential destinations has been a long-term goal of Metro Transit, the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the need to shift from a commuter centric system to an all-day service model. Providing transit for non-work trips is more challenging than serving commuter trips. Work destinations tend to be clustered together. However, non-work destinations are more spread out, and are located across the entire region. This increases the need for effective accessibility analyses when determining the suitability of a planned route.

Community Partner: Metro Transit

Team: Grant Brokl (MURP), Laura Greteman (MURP), Dan Lubben (MURP), Hana Randle (MURP)

Washington County Microtransit

A recommendation made by Washington County in the Highway 36 Transit Feasibility study was to improve transit availability in Stillwater, Bayport, and Oak Park Heights by implementing microtransit. This report looks to assess the feasibility of microtransit service in Stillwater, Bayport, and Oak Park Heights, as recommended by the Highway 36 corridor study, and other areas of the county. It identifies key components of a microtransit solution by surveying services around the United States and makes recommendations guided by those case studies and stakeholder interviews. The purpose of this study is to expand transit access for county residents to access jobs and services, and improve mobility for those residents who rely on transit or do not have access to a car. Microtransit is a novel public transit service, so this report provides a toolkit of best practices to educate decision makers and residents alike on how microtransit may fit into a long-term sustainable transportation strategy for the county.

Community Partner: Washington County

Team: Don Do (MURP), Robbie King (MURP), Gordy Moore (MURP), Maxwell Robb (MURP), Jake Zielinski (MURP)

Urban Planning

Faculty: Greg Lindsey

Project: (6)

Searching for “a Place that’s Accessible for All the People who Need It”: Child Care Access for Latino Immigrant Families in Nobles County

Limited access to child care in rural Minnesota is a well documented problem; however, immigrant communities face particular and compounded barriers to access. We explore the experiences of Latino immigrant families in the city of Worthington in Nobles County, a community rapidly diversifying in response to the needs of meatpacking employers. This report draws upon academic literature surveying child care deserts, immigrant access to child care, and the experiences of child care providers, in addition to original quantitative and qualitative research. GIS maps highlight the state of child care access in Nobles County in terms of geolocation, costs and capacity. Findings from 26 interviews with Latino immigrant families, child care providers, and local officials and administrators illustrate understandings of child care barriers, access and quality.

Community Partner: The Center for Rural Policy and Development

Team: Ulises Linares (MURP), Zoe Martens (MHR), Kerim Örsel (MHR)

Creating and Sustaining Equity through Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Public Transit Connectivity

The City of Little Canada is a first ring suburb of about 10,000 people north of St. Paul. In its 2040 Comprehensive Plan, the City determined that its pedestrian, bicycle, and public transit networks do not adequately meet the equity, safety, and accessibility needs of the community. The City is interested in upgrading these systems to improve the lives of current and future residents. The City is especially interested in reimagining its transportation network to serve the needs of a growing population with diverse abilities and changing characteristics due to factors such as aging, retirement, remote work, and child care considerations. To this end, Little Canada seeks recommendations on how to equitably prioritize improvements to its transportation infrastructure to provide safe, accessible, and connected pathways for people walking, rolling, biking, and taking public transit.

Community Partner: The City of Little Canada and The Metropolitan Council

Team: Jacob Berger (MURP), Regina Burstein (MURP), Frank Koenen (MURP), Jarred Paquin (MURP)

Resilient Towerside Technical Report

The Towerside Innovation District (TID) encompasses a premier location of the Twin Cities with tremendous potential to become an even greater hub of diverse people and culture as well as innovation and economic growth. The Towerside Innovation District vision began from a recognition of this location's opportunity to attract and retain enterprise, accelerate social justice for historically underserved populations, and further a shared community vision of what kind of innovation district Towerside will become. As a culmination of their urban planning graduate school studies, the authors of this report were tasked to investigate questions for the Towerside board ("partners") around what the state of Towerside is now and what potential Towerside has for the future. This report aims to fill a gap that Towerside is experiencing, by clarifying the public's perception of Towerside as well as furthering the current understanding of Towerside's internal assets.

Community Partner: Towerside Innovation District

Team: Lila Franklin (MURP), Ben Harrington (MURP), Adam Brandt (MURP)

Gaiter Lake Conservation Campus: Community Co-design Report

To meet an anticipated increase of housing demand projected for 2022 to 2032, the City of Waseca, Minnesota selected nonprofit Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership (SWMHP) to develop a 40+ acre agricultural field into a mixed-income housing complex of up to 60 units with an adjacent conservation campus of about 6 acres. SWMHP recruited a graduate research team from the University of Minnesota Humphrey School of Public Affairs to develop a set of recommendations for the conservation campus design. SWMHP's design and amenity interests included opportunities for natural and cultural interpretation, an educational space, an improved natural wetland buffer, restoration of native habitats, and expanding the city's bike trail network to the site.

Community Partner: Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership

Team: Bradley Mahr (MURP), Kenneth Niemeyer (MURP), Diana Siegel-Garcia (MURP)

Still Rising: Strategies for Community Development and Engagement

This project is designed to help guide Redesign on how it can support the healing and rebuilding of its service area following the civil unrest after the murder of George Floyd in May of 2020. In collaboration with Redesign we, the capstone team, conducted this work focusing on three deliverables: a community engagement guide, a preliminary asset map, and a project prioritization tool.

Community Partner: Redesign, Inc.

Team: Emily Anderson (MURP), Colette Baumgardner (MURP), Dakota Crowell (MURP), Tia Jacobs (MURP), Maxwell Savage (MURP)

University Relationships with Tribal Nations: Opportunities for University Action

In 2020, the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC) passed a series of resolutions calling for the University of Minnesota to be in better relations with the eleven Tribal Nations that share geography in Minnesota. The result was the formation of the Towards Recognition and University Tribal Healing (TRUTH) Project. The goal of the Truth Project is to investigate the current and historical relationship between Tribes and the University of Minnesota through a series of research projects. The purpose of this research is to understand the extent of the relationship between universities across the United States and the Native American Tribes with whom they share geography in the present-day context of United States Territorial boundaries. Our goal, ultimately, is to offer the TRUTH Project several potential avenues to propose to the University to improve University-Tribal relations, backed by experiential knowledge and effective practices of the University's peer institutions.

Community Partner: Towards Recognition and University Tribal Healing (TRUTH) Project

Team: Danielle Fuecker (MPP), Audrianna Goodwin (MPP), Henry Paddock (MURP), Madeline Titus (MHR)

Capstone in Development Practice (MDP 5200)

Faculty: David Wilsey
Projects: (3)

IISD Mining Team Capstone Final Report

The aim of this collaborative project is to develop evaluation tools and pilot them to assess the impacts of two mining programs/interventions: 1. The IGF-OECD deep-dive country program to help Colombia protect its taxing rights on its domestic extractive industries, 2. The regional training programs on International Taxation and the Mining sector for the Latin American Countries. The purpose of this document is to detail the focused evaluation process addressing both programs/interventions. The overarching goal of this capstone is to provide a set of tools and resources that can be further utilized and that can provide guidance and a solid foundation for future evaluations.

Community Partner: International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

Team: Kitan Babalola (MDP), Khaled Abdellatif (MDP), Bridget Hillard (MPA)

IISD Programming Team Capstone Final Report

This Capstone project started with the FAO Committee on Food Security's (CFS) recent call for "sharing of experiences and good practices in the use and implementation of the principles on responsible investment in agriculture and food systems (CFS-RAI)". The Capstone team was tasked with helping IISD understand how their projects over the past 10 years (legal advice, awareness raising, and the use of the tools developed to implement responsible investment in agriculture and food systems) have been received, perceived, and used by their clients. This project aimed at providing the narrative and showcasing best practices for a report to be submitted to the GTE and also help IISD to identify their impact and areas of potential improvement for current and future implementation of CFS-RAI projects.

Community Partner: International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

Team: Hannah Barnes (MDP), Samuel Turner (MDP), Denis Enywaru (MDP), Meyer Beckner (MURP)

Economic Inclusion and Exclusion: Identities, Opportunities, and Barriers. A meta-synthesis of localized and universal lessons learned from youth-led research on youth economic opportunities in Kenya, Guatemala, and the DRC

The International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) is a nonprofit organization committed to global development and education. IREX works with partners to implement the Youth Excel program which empowers young people and youth organizations. These partnerships with local organizations form Issue-Based Collaborative Networks (ICONs). This report is a meta-synthesis of the implementation research performed by three different ICON sites in Guatemala, Kenya, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. This meta-learning activity is centered around the themes of inclusion and exclusion in youth economic opportunities. This report highlights commonalities and differences across ICON groups and identifies contextualized learnings that are specific to certain ICON groups and is highly intersectional.

Community Partner: United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Team: Karla Godoy (MDP), Eva Kough (MDP), Mingyu Ma (MPP), Casey Ortbahn (MDP)

Summer 2022

Leading Organizational and Community Change

Faculty: Robin Phinney

Projects: (4)

Effects of excess chloride from salt-chlorine pools in Minnesota's Nine Mile Creek Watershed

While the adverse effects of excess salt (chloride) in the environment are well documented, it is unknown how much salt-chlorine pools may contribute to this issue compared to other causes, such as winter salt use on sidewalks/roads and water softeners. The City of Minnetonka, along with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District, proposed that salt-chlorine pools may become more prevalent in Minnesota communities. This report aims to research and analyze this unfamiliar issue, as a better understanding could inform policies to help control excess chloride and reduce negative environmental impacts.

Community Partner: The City of Minnetonka

Team: Ashley Dziuk (MPA), Eric Howard (MPA), John Smith (STEP), Dan Tengwall (MPA)

Protecting and strengthening the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District

The NE-AD is facing an important challenge of protecting and sustaining the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District. Given the rise of housing prices and consequent demand for affordable dwellings, the district is being threatened. There are various stakeholders impacting the NE-AD, including artists and art organizations, government, developers, neighbors, visitors, and more. In this report, we focus on two important groups: developers and policy makers (city government). Through research interviews, email exchanges, and a literature review, we gathered information about how developers and city council members view NE-AD.

Community Partner: Northeast Minneapolis Arts District

Team: Emily Christian (MPA), Charles Cogan (MPA), Pilar Moreno (MPA), Mercedes Plendl (MPP)

Minnesota's Restorative Justice Landscape

In the spring of 2022, the Minnesota Justice Research Center recruited our student team to study restorative justice efforts in Minnesota. Minnesota has a long history of restorative

justice work. Restorative justice originated in Native American tribal practices. Restorative justice work is highly localized and dependent on person-power and strong relationships. Organizations doing restorative justice work remain predominantly White despite frequently relying on collaboration to create culturally-responsive restorative justice programs.

Restorative justice practitioners work together when possible, but a majority of people we spoke to had a desire to have shared time and/or space to meet and discuss their work.

Community Partner: Minnesota Justice Research Center

Team: Tammy Berberi (MPA), Corey Dawson (MPA), Stefanie Lahbil (MPA), Abdirahman Muse (MPA)

Exploring Shared Mobility Public-Private Partnerships

Building a reliable and accessible multimodal transportation system throughout Minnesota is the mission of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT). To this end, MnDOT has recognized that shared mobility services offer an opportunity to fill public transportation gaps for short trips. Shared mobility services include taxis, van and carpool programs, ride-hailing services such as Lyft and Uber, car share, and micromobility services such as bike and scooter rentals. As these services grow, cities have experienced micromobility and ride-hail services appearing on their streets overnight with little advanced planning from the companies, causing cities to rush ad hoc operational decisions. Local transit agencies in cities need to understand how to create partnership agreements with shared-mobility companies to achieve the best long-term results for their residents.

Community Partner: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Team: Katherine Henly (MPA), Kari Irber (MPA), Erica Orcholski (MPA)