Breakout Sessions and Presenters

Building Capacity Through Relationships and Partnerships

Discover some of the resources and programs available to individuals and organizations to form partnerships, nurture relationships and build capacity within their communities. Anne Dybsetter, Julie Hawker, and Toby Spanier will share information about the UMN Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships, Region Nine's Welcoming Communities Program, and UMN Extension's Center for Community Vitality.

NOTE: the first half of this session did not get recorded; here are the slides presented during that portion of the session:

- Julie Hawker: Breakout session presentation June 10, 2021
- Anne Dybsetter: Breakout session presentation June 10, 2021

Presenter: Anne Dybsetter



Anne Dybsetter is Executive Director of the Southwest Regional Sustainable Development Partnership, working out of the Willmar and Morris Regional Offices. Anne's work includes strengthening resilient communities, local food systems, sustainable agriculture, natural resources, and clean energy, in partnership with residents and communities throughout southwest Minnesota. Anne's experiences also include environmental education, youth engagement, and arts-based community development. Anne lives in New London with her family.

Position/Organization: Executive Director, Southwest Regional Sustainable Development Partnership

Location: Southwest Minnesota

Contact Email: adybsett@umn.edu

Website / Social Media (LinkedIn profile, Facebook, Twitter, etc): rsdp.umn.edu

Resources (Links to materials and or websites accessible online):

Presentation at Building Bridges for Thriving Communities - A Summit for Equity: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QAHTZ7zzszQZdiXwwqf_RyrRLGdza9K0/view?usp=sharing

Presenter: Julie Hawker



Julie believes in helping small towns throughout Minnesota identify and embrace their community through diversity, equity and inclusion projects.

After years in corporate program development and training, plus years advocating for refugees, immigrants, and newcomers making their homes in rural communities, Julie is working with other diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) practitioners and consulting communities throughout Minnesota on how to make their small towns more welcoming and inclusive for all cultures. This is achieved through strong partnerships in the private and public sectors, including businesses, school districts, public safety, and faith-based communities.

Julie and her husband, John, live in Mankato. They have three daughters and sons-in-law, nine grandchildren, and three grand dogs.

Position/Organization: DEI Consultant, Outsource Training Providers

Location: Mankato, MN

Contact Email: juliehawker@gmail.com

Website / Social Media (LinkedIn profile, Facebook, Twitter, etc):
https://www.linkedin.com/in/julie-hawker-2189b81/

Resources (Links to materials and or websites accessible online):

Presentation at Building Bridges for Thriving Communities - A Summit for Equity: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1D0r2Z39KqbzIRrNjAKoBUeqMw9XxJJw7njGWzSmbu_8/edit?usp=sharing

The Refugee Housing Leadership Program:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qtju2JGdsqE&t=7s

The Tapestry Project: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q6Z39D-sU3E&t=58s

VINE Diversity Program (video clip 5:41 - 7:09): https://www.mardag.org/50-years-giving

2021 Rural MN Equity Summit:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1X4B9ORS-weCBd_pH_Ff8iytZhzYO-FGe/view?usp=sharing

TRUE Tuesdays: https://true-tuesdays.com/?blogsub=confirming#460

The Tapestry Project - Entrepreneur Series:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tLskKPX-jPqG7Iv9dPG317HSeRDulV-Q/view?usp=sharing

Presenter: Toby Spanier



Tobias is an Associate Extension Professor in Leadership and Civic Engagement with the University of Minnesota. In his educator role, he has over 20 years of providing leadership development research and education to individuals, organizations, and communities. He is passionate about connecting community needs and University resources to address critical issues in Minnesota and the world.

Tobias is a program leader for the Minnesota Agriculture & Rural Leadership (MARL) program. This is a dynamic two-year educational experience bringing together individuals representing agriculture and rural communities to build their capacity to lead. He began his educational career in the U.S. Peace Corps before working with other educational organizations nationally and internationally. He has leadership educational experiences in Mexico, Honduras, Venezuela, Morocco, Armenia, Costa Rica, Kenya, Cambodia and Taiwan.

Tobias brings extensive experience in group facilitation, program design, curriculum development, cultural competence and evaluation to his work.

Position/Organization: Extension Educator, Leadership & Civic Engagement Center for Community Vitality, University of Minnesota Extension

Location: Willmar, MN

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Website / Social Media (LinkedIn profile, Facebook, Twitter, etc):
https://extension.umn.edu/community-development

Resources (Links to materials and or websites accessible online):