

**Media Contact:**

Jawad Towns

[jtowns@umn.edu](mailto:jtowns@umn.edu)

(612) 625-8693

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **The U of M Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute Announces Fall 2016 Community-University Partnership Grant Recipients**

*More than \$175,000 awarded to academic and community partnerships in Minnesota*

**SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA (January 20, 2017)** – The [University of Minnesota Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives \(HFHL\) Institute](#) is pleased to announce the recipients of its Fall 2016 Community-University Partnership Grant Program, totaling more than \$175,000 for local food, nutrition and health related projects.

Community-University Partnership Grants fund projects and/or programs that address one or more of HFHL's funding priority areas –food safety, prevention of obesity and chronic disease, food policy and food security – in an innovative way. Community-University Grants provide up to \$50,000 in funding, and emphasize the inclusion of participatory action research, or other creative strategies for addressing community-identified problems by bringing together University of Minnesota researchers and community partners.

“The Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute seeks to build relationships with communities throughout Minnesota and University researchers that have the vision and drive to produce information and new scholarship that will lead to improved health outcomes,” said Mindy Kurzer, Executive Director, Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute. “From youth enterprise

development or community-led program evaluation, to improving the health of agricultural workers—the very people who produce the healthy foods we eat—each of the awarded partnerships seek to improve the health of Minnesotans.”

The recipients of HFHL’s Fall 2016 Community-University Partnership Grants are as follows (listed are the projects’ community organizations and U of M principal investigators):

**[Project Sweetie Pie](#) and Dr. Mary Rogers, Assistant Professor of Sustainable & Organic Horticultural Food Production Systems, Horticultural Science, University of Minnesota**

***Project Title: Next Steps in Reshaping the North Minneapolis Local Food System: Connecting to North High School***

The award in the amount of **\$49,620** will support the expansion of a project funded by HFHL in the Fall 2015 funding cycle in which team members were able to establish physical, human resource, and educational infrastructure to benefit the student population of North (Minneapolis) Community High School and its surrounding community. The specific aims of the year-two project will be (1) to engage students at North High in educational programs that build food and agricultural literacy, and systems thinking skills and (2) to promote two postsecondary pathways: pipeline to college and enterprise development. Through progress made in the previous 18 months, the team is positioned to continue their Participatory Action Research (PAR) which integrates community input, action and knowledge that will be used to guide the work and that will flourish from existing relationships between project partners.

**[Tamales y Bicicletas](#) and Dr. Lorena Munoz, Assistant Professor of Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies and American Studies, University of Minnesota**

***Project Title: Improving Healthy Food Practices Through Traditional Indigenous Growing Technologies***

The **\$50,719** in funding will support a community-based participatory research (CBPR) project that will set up and evaluate an Urban Farming Institute (UFI) in the East Phillips neighborhood of Minneapolis to educate Latinos, East African and American Indian youth and their families about

sustainable urban farming to create greater access to healthy foods and healthy food practices. The creation of an Urban Farming Institute is a crucial next step for the community garden initiative of the East Phillips non-profit community organization *Tamales y Bicicletas* (Tamales and Bicycles). Over the last five years, they have worked with Latino and East African youth ages 15-20 in creating and maintaining a community garden in the Phillips neighborhood that features traditional indigenous growing technologies, which is defined by *Tamales and Bicicletas* as “localized culturally specific knowledge production of traditional farming technologies and systems of food sustainability of our ancestors, in particular from Latin American, American Indian and East African cultural communities.” The community volunteer based initiative has resulted in the distribution of harvested food to approximately 30 neighborhood families each year.

**[American Indian Cancer Foundation](#) and Dr. Milton Eder, Director, Office of Community Engagement to Advance Research and Community Health , University of Minnesota**

**Project Title:** *Upstream Approach to Addressing American Indian Health Inequities*

The **\$25,544** award will be used to create a framework that guides integration of traditional American Indian (AI) cultural practices and relationships with food into an upstream approach to address the tremendous burden of cancer and other health inequities in American Indian communities. Specific aims of the project are to leverage existing social networks to establish a working team of committed partners to share in strategic development of the framework, synthesize existing data to inform development of the framework, hold 6-8 team meetings to develop a framework that can be used by AI communities to integrate aspects of culture into plans/policies/work in cancer prevention and control activities, and disseminate findings from the data synthesis, meeting summaries, evaluation outcomes, and the final framework to appropriate stakeholders.

**[Centro Campesino](#) and Dr. Oscar W. Garza, Assistant Professor, Pharmaceutical Care and Health Systems, University of Minnesota**

**Project Title:** Nuestra Salud, Nuestro Futuro: Our Health, Our Future - Developing a Nutrition-Based Model for Latino Youth Health Promoters  
The overall goal of this project is to better understand how to improve the health and well-being of Minnesota's agricultural workers and their families through the prevention of obesity and other diet-related diseases and to develop a sustainable bilateral youth health promoter and community health education model. The **\$50,000** award will support this partnership's specific project aims which are (1) to assess Latino youth beliefs, perceptions, concerns, and barriers that affect nutrition and diet-related choices and (2) to develop and evaluate a pilot nutrition-based Youth Health Promoters program to provide bilateral community health education to and among the Latino and broader community.

"Since its inception, the Institute has awarded over \$4 million to accomplished University researchers and deserving community organizations striving to solve food, nutrition and health related problems within Minnesota and as far away as Uganda," adds Kurzer. "In 2016 alone, we've provided more than \$340,000 in grants."

For additional information regarding the grant process and deadlines for each of the funding opportunities and information about HFHL, visit [www.hfhl.umn.edu](http://www.hfhl.umn.edu) or email an inquiry to [hfhl@umn.edu](mailto:hfhl@umn.edu).

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### **About the University of Minnesota Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute**

Solving complex problems related to food and health and improving health outcomes is the overarching vision of the University of Minnesota's Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute. Founded in 2007, the mission of the HFHL Institute is to increase and sustain the University's impact in the interdisciplinary arena of food, agriculture and health by building the University's capacity in research, learning and community engagement. For more information about the Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute, visit [www.hfhl.umn.edu](http://www.hfhl.umn.edu) or call (612) 625-8693.

