

Conclusion

By Mary Ellen Mazey, Ph.D.

Dr. Mary Ellen Mazey is dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Wright State University (WSU) in Dayton, Ohio. A professor of urban affairs and geography at WSU, Mazey was founding director of the university's Center for Urban and Public Affairs. From 1993-96, she was distinguished professor of professional service at WSU. In 1996-97 she was appointed director of the Office of University Partnerships (OUP) in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).



Dr. Mazey

Over the past 10 years HUD has become an important catalyst for partnership building at the local level. By initiating and sustaining the Community Outreach Partnership Centers (COPC) program, HUD has facilitated hundreds of partnerships that are successfully addressing the most critical social and economic issues that this country is facing—poverty, education, housing, and local neighborhood capacity building.

Colleges and universities have benefited in two important ways since COPC was established in 1994. Monetary grants distributed through the program have been extremely helpful in allowing institutions of higher education (IHEs) to become actively engaged in their local communities. In addition, the program's guiding principles have helped inform the engagement work of COPC grantees and have helped to ensure the success of that work. The scholars and policymakers who envisioned COPC a decade ago—and the administrators who have implemented the program since then—had a keen understanding of the characteristics that must be present if campus-community partnerships are to be successful. These characteristics, which become second nature to every COPC grantee, include:

- ◆ **Grassroots Ownership.** Campus-community partnerships will never succeed unless local residents are intimately involved in making decisions about what outreach, technical assistance, and applied research work will be implemented in their neighborhoods. Guided by this principle, neighborhood residents, community-based organizations, and university representatives have learned to work collaboratively through the COPC program. Together, they have identified critical issues in their local communities and, together, they have carried out strategies to resolve those issues.

As the COPC program enters its second decade, our challenge will be to continue applying its model of engagement . . . to the new and more complex issues that we will undoubtedly encounter in the future.

- ◆ **Scholarly Expertise.** Even when community members take ownership of their problems and solutions, they still depend on the plentiful resources that colleges and universities can bring to bear on local issues. The COPC program has given IHEs a powerful incentive to apply their scholarly expertise to the challenges facing their neighborhoods. Research activities, which in previous years might have been carried out in a vacuum, now are tied closely to outreach activities. As a result, local communities receive the tools they need to help themselves.
- ◆ **Institutional Commitment.** The COPC program encourages colleges and universities to make a long-term investment, both financial and human in their local neighborhoods. In this way, community outreach becomes part of the institution's mission and determines the way the institution does business, the way it educates its students, and the way it relates to its neighbors. This institutional commitment is what sets COPC apart from other grant programs. Without such a commitment, COPCs would only be as good as their latest grant. With this commitment, COPC goals are the university's goals.

As the COPC program enters its second decade, our challenge will be to continue applying its model of engagement—a model that has served us well—to the new and more complex issues that we will undoubtedly encounter in the future. In addition, we will need to take deliberate action to strengthen the existing partnerships in our COPC neighborhoods and to establish additional partnerships in new communities. Meeting this challenge will call for creative thinking at the local level; at the national level, it will require that HUD and OUP find new and creative ways to support our endeavors.

OUP has a proven track record of responsiveness to the changing needs of its grantees. Since the New Directions grant was introduced in 1999, OUP has provided existing COPCs with the means to take their community engagement work to the next level by expanding successful partnerships and tackling new





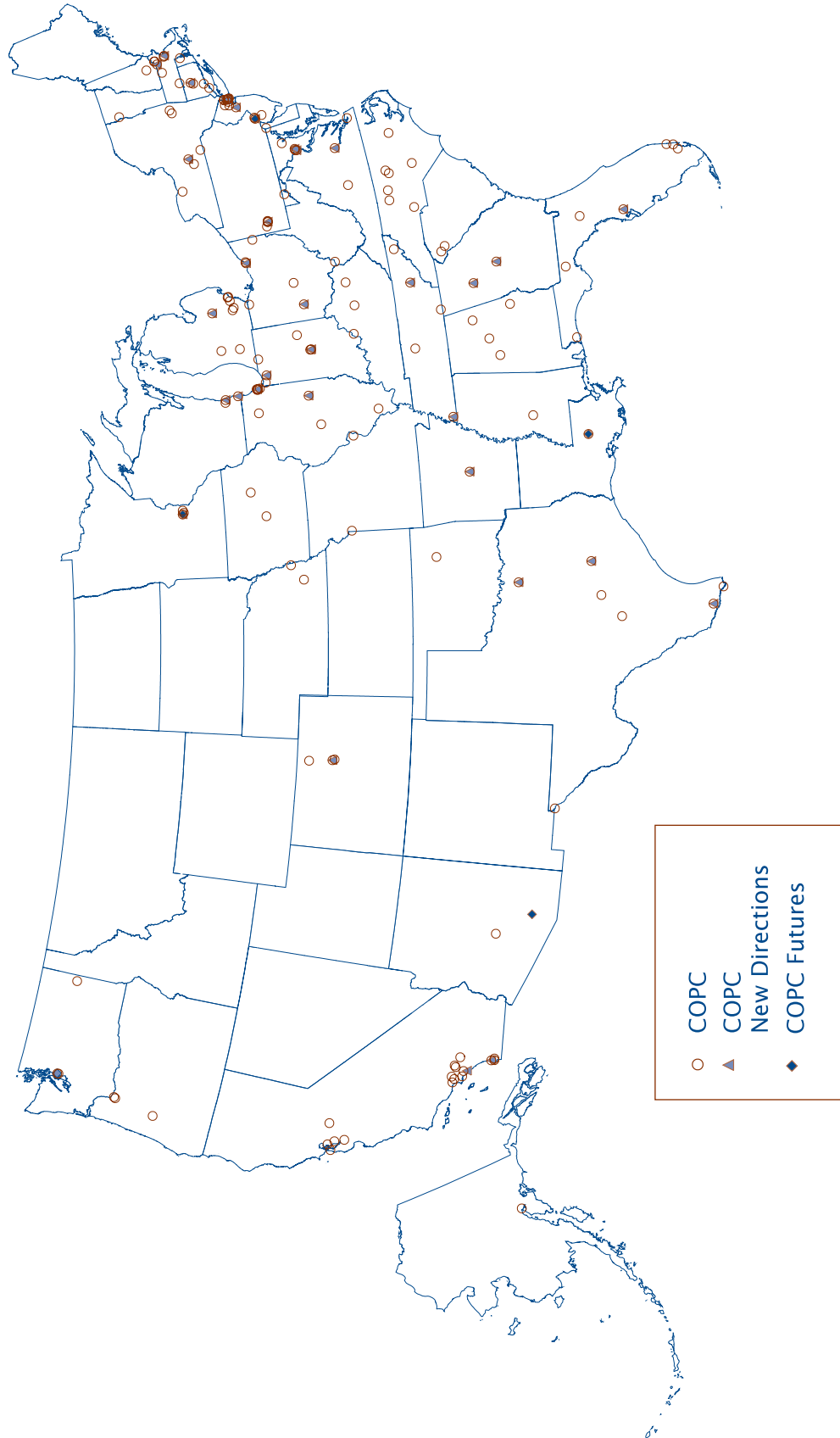
areas of outreach. The Community Futures Demonstration Program, instituted in 2003, allows COPCs to expand their urban missions even further by developing needed housing plans and addressing issues of community growth.

This federal responsiveness will continue to be important as colleges and universities, and their community partners, strive to expand even further the roles they play in the revitalization of neighborhoods, cities, towns, and counties across the country. Together, HUD and IHEs can ensure that more communities will be touched by “the power of partnership,” which we celebrate in this anniversary publication. Together, we can use that power to transform distressed communities into vibrant collaboratives that bring about positive changes at the local level and, in the process, improve the quality of life for all Americans. ■

Together, HUD and IHEs can ensure that more communities will be touched by “the power of partnership” . . . together, we can use that power to transform distressed communities into vibrant collaboratives that bring about positive changes at the local level and, in the process, improve the quality of life for all Americans.

Appendix

The Evolution of COPC



COPC Grantees

1994–2003

1994

Arizona State University
Barnhard College/Columbia University/City College of the
City University of New York
Duquesne University
Merrimack College
Michigan State University/University of Michigan/Wayne
State University
Pratt Institute
San Francisco State University/University of California at
Berkeley/Stanford University
Texas A&M University
Trinity College
University of California, Los Angeles
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of South Florida
University of Texas–Pan American
Yale University

1995

Case Western Reserve University/Cleveland State
University/Cuyahoga Community College
DePaul University
George Mason University/Northern Virginia
Community College
Georgia State University/Georgia Institute of Technology
Marshall University
Milwaukee Area Technical College/University of
Wisconsin–Milwaukee
University of Alabama at Birmingham/Miles
College/Lawson State Community College
University of Delaware/Delaware Technical and
Community College
University of Florida/Santa Fe Community College
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Massachusetts Boston/Bunker Hill
Community College/Roxbury Community College
University of Memphis/LeMoyné Owen College
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
University of Texas at Austin

1996

Central Connecticut State University
Howard University
Hunter College
Los Angeles Trade Technical College
Northeastern University
Ohio State University
Portland State University
Stillman College
Temple University
Tulsa Community College
University of California, Davis
University of Massachusetts Lowell
University of Michigan–Flint
University of Pennsylvania
University of San Diego

1997

Brooklyn College
Buffalo State College
Clemson University
Fitchburg State College
Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis
New Hampshire College
San Jose State University
Santa Ana College/University of California, Irvine
University of California, San Diego
University of Missouri–Kansas City
University of Nebraska at Omaha
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill/Duke
University
University of North Texas
University of Rhode Island/Rhode Island School of
Design/Roger Williams University
University of Wisconsin–Parkside
Virginia Commonwealth University

1998

East Tennessee State University
Fayetteville State University
Florida Atlantic University
Florida International University

Community Outreach Partnership Centers (COPC)

Through its COPC initiative, HUD's Office of University Partnerships, provides 3-year grants of up to \$400,000 to encourage institutions of higher education granting 2- to 4-year degrees, and consortia of these institutions, to join in partnerships with their communities. Funds from this program are used to establish centers that address the problems of urban areas.

COPCs play an active and visible role in community revitalization—applying research to real urban problems, coordinating outreach efforts with neighborhood groups and residents, acting as a local information exchange, galvanizing support for neighborhood revitalization, developing public service projects and instructional programs, and collaborating with other COPCs. In neighborhoods nationwide, COPCs are responding to the most urgent needs of urban communities, thus institutionalizing their joint efforts to revitalize local communities.

COPC New Directions Grantees

Introduced in 1999, the New Directions program provides former COPCs 2-year grants of \$150,000 to help expand their existing COPC program, and to develop new activities in their target neighborhoods or new projects in new target neighborhoods.

COPC Community Futures Demonstration Grantees

Through this program HUD's Office of University Partnerships awards 3-year grants of \$250,000 to \$400,000 to schools of architecture, planning, or design—at 2- and 4-year colleges, and universities—in housing design awards and planning awards. These funds are used to establish and operate COPCs to:

- ◆ Develop case study housing plans that incorporate innovative technologies, good design, energy efficiency, universal design, accessibility and affordability, so that homes can become economically viable and marketable in the local area.
- ◆ Develop long-range plans that address future growth and development trends in these areas or region.

1998 (*cont'd*)

Illinois Institute of Technology
Iowa State University
Kean University
Rutgers University
University of Alaska, Anchorage
University of Arkansas at Little Rock
University of Colorado at Denver
University of Illinois at Springfield
University of Louisville
University of Maryland, Baltimore
University of Minnesota/Macalester College/Metropolitan State University
University of North Carolina at Charlotte
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Wright State University

1999

Butler University
Cornell University
Georgetown University
Howard University*
Loyola University, Chicago
Lynchburg College
Mercer University
Occidental College
Pratt Institute*
Rowan University
Springfield College/Springfield Technical College/American International College
State University of New York at Cortland
University of Michigan–Flint*
University of Oregon
University of South Florida*
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
University of Tennessee, Knoxville*
University of Texas–Pan American*
University of Toledo
University of Vermont
University of West Florida
Valparaiso University

2000

Auburn University
Ball State University
Barry University
California State University, Hayward
Danville Community College
DePaul University*

Duquesne University*
Indiana University Northwest
Medgar Evers College
Medical College of Wisconsin
Seattle Central Community College
Texas A&M University*
Tidewater Community College
Trinity College, Hartford*
University of Denver
University of Memphis*
University of Northern Iowa
University of Pennsylvania*
University of Pittsburgh
University of Rhode Island*
University of Southern California
University of Wisconsin–Parkside*
Western Michigan University
Youngstown State University

2001

California State Polytechnic Institute
Calvin College
Cleveland State University*
Eastern Michigan University
Gadsden State Community College
George Mason University*
Georgia State University*
Housatonic Community College
Louisiana State University
Montclair State University
New Jersey City University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Texas Southmost College
University of California, Irvine*
University of California, San Diego*
University of Chicago
University of Colorado at Denver*
University of the Pacific
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*
University of Kentucky
University of Minnesota*
University of Missouri
University of Nebraska, Nebraska
University of Texas at Brownsville

2002

Claremont Graduate University
Colorado State University

East Carolina University
Frostburg State University
Mercer University*
Morehead State University
Northern Essex Community College
Northern Illinois University
Robert Morris University
Rutgers University *
San Diego Community College District
Spokane Falls Community College
State University of New York at Binghamton
University of Arkansas at Little Rock*
University of Massachusetts, Lowell*
University of Michigan–Dearborn
University of North Texas*
University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee*
Vanderbilt University
Virginia Commonwealth University*

2003

Anderson College
Butler University*
California State University, Long Beach
Florida State University
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis*
Louisiana State University**
Point Park College
Portland Community College
Rochester Institute of Technology
State University of New York at Cortland*
University of California, Riverside
University of Notre Dame
University of Arizona**
University of Massachusetts Boston*
University of Minnesota**
University of Pennsylvania**
University of Texas at El Paso
University of Washington**
Valparaiso University*
Winston-Salem State University
Wright State University

* COPC New Directions Grantees

** COPC Community Futures Demonstration Grantees

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