Dear colleagues,

Hope you're enjoying a great summer. We write to let you know about a conference in the planning for the coming fall on building a web-based Health Connections Commons, and to enlist your help and input in this project. The conference is scheduled for W Oct. 29, 2014, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The HCC implements a major recommendation from a local health study undertaken by of the Workshop on Political Theory and Policy analysis. Inspired by Nobel Laureate Elinor Ostrom’s work on managing the commons, we envision the Health Connections Commons (HCC) to be a website that would be generally accessible by the community, and also serve as a social media platform for organizations and health/social care providers. In addition to information sharing, the HCC would be a site for participants to form connections and alliances to collaborate on community-based initiatives, research, and fundraising. This will be the first step in a long-term effort to co-produce a sustainable healthy community in Bloomington and surrounding areas, shifting our community from a culture organized around sickness relief to one organized around wellness and preventive healthcare.

The purpose of the conference, therefore, is to engage our campus and community in a broad range of course-based and research-based partnerships to begin the work of building the HCC. Since community organizations are often stretched to the limit, one goal of the partnerships is to help them come up with material they wish to include in the HCC. You may well have research, teaching, and/or service interests that you can develop through a partnership.

We envision that faculty, students, and staff from across the schools will be able to participate, given the conference's holistic approach to health and the community's needs in messaging on health, promoting services, web design, fundraising, data collection/mining, and so on.

Please let me know if you'd like to meet and discuss possibilities.

If you would like to participate in the conference, please fill out our pre-conference survey at https://iucas.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_ac4YIIPDRHSPTPRX. You can learn more about the projects and needs of community organizations at http://www.indiana.edu/~hcommons/community_needs.shtml. This information will be updated weekly.

If you have questions or wish to update your survey information, please contact us at hcommons@indiana.edu.

Please forward this invitation to any community partner or campus colleague that you think might be interested. Additional information for community partners is also available at http://www.indiana.edu/~hcommons.

With best regards,
Health Connections Commons Conference Planning Committee

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  City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation
  Bloomington/Monroe County ACHIEVE
  Monroe County YMCA
The University Graduate School
The Office of the Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Multicultural Affairs
The Office of the Dean of Students
The Office of the Vice Provost on Diversity Education
The Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education
The School of Public Health, IU Bloomington
The School of Social Work
The Office of Global & Community Health Partnerships
The Social Science Research Commons
The Vincent and Elinor Ostrom Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis
The Service-Learning Program
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