

PRESS RELEASE

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Creating Whole Communities Launching Neighborhood Leadership Fellows *Advanced Leadership Training Aims to Increase St. Louis Promise Zone Civic Engagement*

St. Louis, MO: Creating Whole Communities, a partnership of University of Missouri- St. Louis, University of Missouri Extension (MU Extension), and St. Louis Promise Zone- St. Louis Economic Development Partnership, is announcing a new advanced leadership-training program, Neighborhood Leadership Fellows, which will begin in January 2018. The mission of Neighborhood Leadership Fellows is to increase the voices of North St. Louis City and North County residents at the civic decision-making tables in order to produce more equitable regional policies for neighborhoods. The primary geographic focus for the program is the federally designated St. Louis Promise Zone.

Neighborhood Leadership Fellows is a nine-month leadership training for community leaders. The program, set to convene on January 12, will meet one weekend a month from January through September 2018. During the Friday and Saturday sessions, participants will engage in shared collaborative learning experiences through dialogue, and presentations among fellows and respective community and state leaders. Educational workshops will cover policies, new research, and innovations that promote equitable neighborhood development in areas of housing, education, economic development, public health and safety. Positional power trainings will give participants the foundational knowledge to run for boards, commissions, committees and elected office.

Neighborhood Leadership Fellows strongly encourages residents from the St. Louis Promise Zone to apply for the program. All participants who are accepted receive a \$2,000 stipend and a UMSL Chancellor's Certificate upon completion.

To learn more about the program and apply, please visit cwc.umsl.edu/nlf.

About Creating Whole Communities: Creating Whole Communities (CWC), formed in 2014, brings together the University of Missouri–St. Louis (School of Social Work, Des Lee Collaborative Vision, and the Public Policy Research Center), University of Missouri Extension (MU Extension), and the St. Louis region's neighborhoods to focus on strengthening our communities. CWC looks to link the resources of the university's local efforts throughout the region to create whole communities.