Community Development Society Announces Scholarships for 2015
Applications Due April 15, 2015

The Community Development Society (CDS) provides leadership to professionals and community members across the spectrum of community development. Our mission is to further community work through teaching, practice, and research. CDS provides those who do community work with best practices, networking opportunities, tools, and other resources.

The CDS Endowment was established as a sustainable fund to help members in a variety of ways, from attending our annual international conferences to enhancing the quality and diversity of our programs to supporting student research. Thanks to the generous contributions of our members and supporters, the CDS Endowment Fund will distribute up to four scholarships in 2015 to CDS members and student members to support academic efforts, research projects, or presentations at the CDS Annual International Conference in Lexington, Kentucky on July 19-22, 2015.

The deadline for scholarship applications is April 15, 2015.

Applications may be submitted electronically to Chris Marko, CDS VP of Operations, at cmarko@rcac.org.

Do you know students in community development or CDS members who may be interested? Please distribute this notice widely among potential applicants and academic departments. Information about the types of grants and scholarships, as well as an application information checklist, is available on the CDS website.

CDS Scholarship Fund

The CDS Scholarship Fund was established, to encourage students of good academic standing and CDS Members in good standing, to attend the Annual International Conference. An applicant may receive a scholarship only one time. Two scholarships will be offered in 2015 in the amount of $1,000 each. The recipient will be recognized at a plenary session of the CDS Annual International Conference.

Grant Criteria:

1. **Student:** A student applicant for the Scholarship Fund will, at a minimum, meet the following criteria: (a) be enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program with an emphasis on community development at an accredited college or university; (b) can demonstrate a Grade Point Average of 3.0/4.0 minimum with a copy of his or her transcript; (c) submits an essay (maximum of 750 words) describing his or her course of study, academic standing, year of study, the intended uses of the award, and a description of how attending the Conference
will enhance his or her work or study; (d) provides evidence of planned involvement in the CDS Annual International Conference by: (1) a letter of recommendation from a faculty member who can verify the applicant’s status, plans for involvement at the Conference, and how attending the Conference will enhance the applicant’s work or study; and (2) the applicant’s commitment to participate in the entire Conference; and (e) is currently a member of CDS or joins the organization.

2. **Member:** A member applicant for Scholarship Fund will, at a minimum, meet the following criteria: (a) be a current member of CDS, as verified by the CDS Secretary or the CDS business office; (b) submits an essay (maximum of 750 words) describing his or her planned participation in the CDS Annual International Conference, including (1) the reason for requesting the monies, (2) how attending the Conference will enhance his or her work, and (3) a formal commitment to attend the entire Conference; and (c) following the conference the applicant submits a brief summary of the personal highlights of the Conference for write-up in the CDS Vanguard.

Applicants will be judged on the degree to which his/her course of study or work in community development will be enhanced by attending the Conference.

### George Nickolaus CD Graduate Student Award Fund

The late George Nickolaus was a charter member of CDS and served as legal counsel to the organization until his passing. The George Nickolaus family created the fund to honor the memory of George Nickolaus and to support graduate students enrolled in MA/MS or Ph.D. programs, who are focusing on community development at accredited universities. One scholarship will be offered in 2015 in the amount of $1,000. Award recipients will be recognized at a plenary session of the CDS Annual International Conference, but need not be present to receive the award.

**Grant Criteria:** An applicant for the George Nickolaus Fund will, at a minimum, meet the following criteria: (a) is enrolled as a graduate student in good standing, focusing on community development at an accredited graduate degree granting college or university; (b) is currently a member of CDS or joins the organization; (c) submits an essay (maximum of 750 words) describing his or her course of study, academic standing, year of study, the intended uses of the award, and a description of how his or her work reflects the spirit of the award (see list below); and (d) submits a letter of recommendation from a faculty member who verifies the applicant’s status and states how the applicant’s work reflects the spirit of the award as listed below. A grant recipient may receive only one grant per degree. For example, a student may apply for the grant as an MS/MA student and again as a Ph.D. candidate.

An applicant will be judged on the degree to which his/her work reflects the spirit and legacy of George Nickolaus by:
1. Focusing on the civic life of communities, such as local leadership, local government, and social and economic development.

2. Paying attention to diversity and inclusiveness in community development efforts.

3. Enhancing the knowledge base and the professional development of people involved in community development.

**Eligible Grant Activities:** The primary intent of the grant is to support tuition expenses. However, if a student has an assistantship, tuition may already be covered. In this case, the grant may be used toward research support and/or living expenses.

**Nette Nelson Travel Scholarship Fund**

The Nette Nelson Travel Scholarship Fund was established for the dual purpose of honoring the memory of Nette Nelson and to help defray the expenses of CDS members who wish to participate in a community development conference outside of his or her home continent by presenting a paper or workshop or giving a major address. No member may receive this scholarship more than once. One scholarship will be offered in 2015 in the amount of $2,000. If present, the recipient of the Nette Nelson Travel Scholarship will be recognized at a plenary session of the CDS Annual International Conference.

**Grant Criteria:** An applicant for the Nette Nelson Travel Scholarship Fund will, at minimum, meet the following criteria: (a) be a current CDS member; (b) provide evidence of an invitation to present a paper, workshop or major address at a community development conference held outside of the member’s home continent plus evidence of his/her acceptance of the invitation; and (c) provide written support for the importance of the presentation to the community development profession by two other current CDS members.

**Ted Bradshaw Fund to Support Student Engagement in CDS**

The Rural Policy Research Institute established this fund in 2007 for the dual purpose of honoring the memory of Ted Bradshaw and to provide support for undergraduate or graduate students who wish to participate in the CDS Annual International Conference, and/or to provide a community-based research award to students. Two scholarships will be offered in 2015 in the amount of $1,000 each. The recipient will be recognized at a plenary session of the CDS Annual International Conference.

**An award may be given for one of two purposes (select one):**

1. **Travel support award:** To provide travel support for undergraduate or graduate students who wish to participate in the CDS Annual International Conference and
who have been accepted to present community-based research at the conference;

2. **Community-based research award**: To provide a research award to students doing or planning to do community-based research. The recipient is not required to attend the CDS Annual International Conference, but is encouraged to do so.

**Grant Criteria:** As noted above, there are two awards given under the auspices of the Ted Bradshaw Fund. Each has unique grant criteria. For either award, a grant recipient may receive only one award per his/her degree. For example, a student may apply for the grant as an undergraduate and again as a graduate student.

1. **Travel support award**: An applicant for the Ted Bradshaw Fund for travel to present community-based research at the CDS Annual International Conference will, at a minimum, meet the following criteria: (a) is enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program with an emphasis on community development at an accredited college or university; (b) can demonstrate a Grade Point Average of 3.0/4.0 minimum with a copy of his/her transcript; (c) submits an essay (maximum of 750 words) describing his or her course of study, academic standing, year of study, the intended uses of the award, and a description of how his or her work reflects the spirit of the award (see list below); (d) provides evidence of planned involvement in the CDS Annual International Conference as supported by: (1) a letter of recommendation from a faculty member who can verify the applicant’s status and plans for involvement at the Conference; and (2) the applicant’s commitment to participate in the entire Conference; (e) is currently a member of CDS or joins the organization; and (f) submits a brief summary of the presentation for write-up in the Vanguard.

2. **Community-based research award**: An applicant for the Ted Bradshaw Fund for conducting community-based research will, at a minimum, meet the following criteria: (a) is enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program with an emphasis on community development at an accredited college or university; (b) can demonstrate a Grade Point Average of 3.0/4.0 minimum with a copy of his/her transcript; (c) submits an essay (maximum of 750 words) describing his or her course of study, academic standing, year of study, the intended uses of the award, and a description of how his or her work reflects the spirit of the award (see list below); (d) provides a description (maximum 750 words) of his/her current or proposed community-based research; (e) submits a letter of recommendation from a faculty member who can verify the applicant’s status and research plans; (f) is currently a member of CDS or joins the organization; and (g) submits a brief summary of her/his research for write-up in the CDS Vanguard.

Applicants for either award will be judged on the degree to which the characteristics of the applicant and their work reflect the spirit and legacy of Ted Bradshaw. These characteristics include:
1. **Innovation**: the conference presentation focuses on truly innovative practice;

2. **Practice-driven research**: the research involves working with communities, and the results will benefit communities;

3. **High levels of intellectual curiosity**: helps push the CDS toward new ways of thinking about community development.