America Walks Announces Class of 2016 "Walking College" Fellows

Washington, DC - America Walks, a national advocacy organization that promotes walking and walkable communities, today announced the names of 25 local advocates who will participate in this year’s Walking College training program.

The 2016 class of Walking College Fellows hails from 19 different states, expanding the program into 10 new states. "This is our second presentation of the Walking College and we are delighted to welcome an extremely diverse group of Fellows," said Ian Thomas, State and Local Program Director with America Walks, "The course will have an impact in communities large and small; urban, suburban, and rural; throughout the United States."

The Walking College curriculum has been designed to expand the capacity of local advocates to be effective community change agents. Fellows will complete a six-module distance-education program this summer, covering the science behind the benefits of walking, evaluation of built environments, as well as communication skills and building relationships with decision makers.

In September, they will participate in the international Pro Walk, Pro Bike, Pro Place conference in Vancouver, British Columbia and develop a task-oriented Strategic Plan for improving walkability in their communities.

About The Walking College: The Walking College is supported with funding from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Public Health Association, and the Every Body Walk! Collaborative. Mentoring will be provided by national leaders in the field, including representatives of WalkBoston, Circulate San Diego, the PedNet Coalition, and Walk2Connect. More info. at www.americawalks.org/walking-college2016/.

About America Walks: America Walks is the only national organization devoted exclusively to making America a great place to walk. America Walks consists of a network of more than 700 partner and allied organizations, working to increase walking and create
more safe, accessible and inclusive places to walk. Programs include on-line technical assistance, community-based workshops, convenings such as the National Walking Summit, federal advocacy initiatives, and increasing financial resources for local action. America Walks also maintains the Every Body Walk! Collaborative, a national partnership focused on increasing the visibility of walking and cultivating consumer demand for more walkable places. More info. at www.americawalks.org.

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