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America Walks Announces 2017 Walking College Fellowships

Washington, DC - America Walks, a national advocacy organization that promotes walking and walkable communities, today announced the names of 24 local advocates who will receive Fellowships to participate in this year's Walking College training program.

The 2017 class of the Walking College represents 19 different states, expanding the reach of the program, now in its third year, to a total of 33 states plus one Canadian province. "We are delighted to welcome this group of passionate community leaders, who are working to improve walkability in urban, suburban, and rural areas throughout the country," said Ian Thomas, State and Local Program Director with America Walks, "Several of this year's Fellows identify themselves as people with disabilities, and so we expect to include a major focus on issues of access and inclusion in the group's discussions and community activities."

The newly-appointed Walking College Fellows are:

• Evan Alvarez, a city planner from Urbana, IL
• Ericka Amador, a community advocate from Victoria, BC
• Bradley Armstrong, a community advocate from Logan, UT
• Garrett Brumfield, a community/disability advocate from Roanoke, VA
• Miranda Clements, a multimodal transportation planner from Bowling Green, KY
• Katie Deolloz, a walking professional from Austin, TX
• Cynthia Gibson, a community advocate from Boise, ID
• Carly Haithcock, a transportation engineer from Austin, TX
• Adriana Hochberg, a local government employee and blogger from Rockville, MD
• Amber Hughes, a public health professional from Cottonwood, MN
• Beth Javener, a public health professional from Conway, SC
• Patricia Ann Jewett, a research assistant from Portland, OR
• Ana Lucaci, a community advocate from Longmont, CO
• Collisa Mahin, a public health professional from Orange Park, FL
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 National Walking Summit in St. Paul, Minnesota, and develop a Walking Action 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 and the American Public Health Association. Mentoring will be provided by national leaders in the field, including representatives of WalkBoston, the Walkable and Livable Communities (WALC) Institute, Urban Health Partnerships, and MIG Inc. More info. at [www.americawalks.org/walkingcollege](http://www.americawalks.org/walkingcollege).

**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](http://www.americawalks.org).

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