



National Press Release

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America Walks Announces 2018 Walking College Fellowships

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

The 2018 class of the Walking College represents 16 different states as well as the District of Columbia and Ontario Canada for a total of 26 different municipalities, expanding the reach of the program and adding new voices to the growing walking movement. This class is representative of the diversity of backgrounds, professions, races, and ethnicities that make up the walking movement. "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 Emilie Bahr, Walking College Manager with America Walks. "These fellows will work with and learn from one another over the course of the next six months to become experienced community-change agents." This class will include a set of fellows from Maryland who are supported by the Maryland Department of Health.

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. They will also travel to New Orleans this fall to take part in the national Walk/Bike/Places conference where they will network and learn from other advocates.

The newly-appointed Walking College Fellows are:

- Andrea Aguirre, Stafford, VA
- Priscilla Anchondo, Encino, CA
- Tyler Barbarin, Washington, DC
- Abby Beck, Batavia, IL
- Crystal Bell, Worcester County, MD
- Charles Bingham, Sitka, AK
- Gretchen Boyum, Salina, KS
- Jacquelyn Castro, Waco, TX

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- Scott Conroy, Baltimore, MD
- Nedra Cox, Greensboro, NC
- Ned Dannenberg, Memphis, TN
- Letora Fortune Anderson, Plano, TX
- Katie Goforth, Tracy City, TN
- Caroline Green, Pocomoke, MD
- David Heinold, Sioux Falls, SD
- Ruth Johnson, Warren, MI
- Adam Krupper, Thunder Bay, Ontario
- Andrea Lowe, Laplace, LA
- Sharon Lynch, Westover, MD
- Heather Marriott, Columbia, MO
- Mary McPherson, Hagerstown, MD
- Lee Mortensen, Greensboro, NC
- Charlene Nevadomski, Tamarac, FL
- Diana Padilla Milburn, Chula Vista, CA
- Theresa Roach, Flint, MI
- Cara Rozaieski, Salisbury, MD
- Nichole Romero, Raton, NM
- Nacole Smith, Baltimore, MD
- Charise Stephens, Macon, GA
- Fred Surgent, McHenry, MD

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, Urban Health Partnerships, and MIG Inc. More info. at www.americawalks.org/walkingcollege.

About America Walks: America Walks, a nonprofit national organization, is leading the way in empowering communities to create safe, accessible, and enjoyable walking conditions for all. We provide a voice for walking and walkable communities with federal agencies, provide strategy support, training and technical assistance to statewide, regional, and local organizations, and serve as the convener of the national Every Body Walk! Collaborative. Together, America Walks and the Every Body Walk! Collaborative boast 700 allied organizations who across the nation are working to increase walking and support walkable communities for all members. More at www.americawalks.org.

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