Fully Funded Training Opportunity at Resilient Cities 2017:

The EPIC EPIC-N Model as an Effective Vehicle for the Provision of Knowledge and Enhancing Local Government Capacity

May 3, 2017 (Full-Day Training) + May 4-6, 2017 (Resilient Cities Forum)

Bonn, Germany

BACKGROUND: Colleges and universities paired with local governments can be a powerful force in making cities sustainable. Presently, there are about 30 universities in the U.S.A. that are implementing what has come to be known as the EPIC-N Model for connecting students and faculty to real-world projects that address the pressing needs of local municipalities and communities as they contend with real-life challenges of becoming more sustainable and resilient, and adapting to climate change.

The EPIC-N model (Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities Network) is a community service-based model designed to address the broad spectrum of sustainability-related information and knowledge needs of local governments and communities by systematically matching city needs with university capacity in ways that benefit all parties, with lasting and sustainable impacts for all involved. The model has thus far shown itself to be elegantly simple yet powerful and effective in practice, and seems fully customizable to local circumstances elsewhere. Based on its successes in the U.S.A., the partners facilitating this training are excited to promote the adoption of this model internationally, with an initial emphasis on expansion into communities within Asia, Latin America (including Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean), and Africa.

OPPORTUNITY: In May 2017, the Resilient Cities 2017 Forum will host a unique opportunity for collaborating pairs of individuals representing municipal governments and nearby universities, to receive training on the EPIC-N model. Selected pairs of candidates will be fully funded to participate in a one-day training on the EPIC-N Model, and to attend the Resilient Cities 2017 Forum in Bonn, Germany. The training would take place on May 3, 2017. Upon completion of the training participants will also be awarded a certificate of training. And from May 4-6, the trainees are also welcome to be on hand for the 8th Resilient Cities Forum during which time EPIC-N trainers will be on hand informally, for further consultations on an ad hoc basis.

The organizers of this training are seeking pairs of candidates (one person from a local university and one person from a local municipal/city government in the same area) to participate in a training on the EPIC-N Model with the understanding that they would later become implementers of the model in their own communities. The ideal pairing the organizers are seeking would be that of a decision-maker and/or person of influence within a local or urban government, and that of a decision-maker and/or person of influence within a local university, from the same setting. In a municipal or urban setting this might be a city manager, assistant city manager, chief resilience officer or equivalent.

This opportunity is being made available by the following group of organizers:

EPIC-N Network

U.S. National Science Foundation

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of International & Tribal Affairs

RTI International

UNEP Global Adaptation Network
(GAN)

UNEP Global Universities Partnership
on Environment and Sustainability

ICLEI Global

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST: We are seeking expressions of interest from qualified pairs of individuals who are interested in this fully-funded opportunity. Interested parties should send an email with names, affiliations, and contact information for both individuals, along with a short 1-2 paragraph explanation of why you are interested in taking this training. Pairs need not have collaborated previously. The training will be conducted in English. Please submit expressions of interest, complete contact information and title to Dr. Anthony Socci at: socci.anthony@epa.gov, by January 25, 2017.

OBJECTIVE OF THE TRAINING

To introduce and catalyze the implementation of the EPIC-N model internationally, prioritizing low- and middle-income local governments/cities and universities in Africa, Asia and Latin America, with the aim of enhancing local capacity and unleashing under-utilized local capacity as an approach to helping communities and local governments address real-life issues of sustainability. Experience has demonstrated that the ideal circumstance for successful implementation of the EPIC-N model in other settings, is by having influential pairs of individuals from a local government and a local university in the same setting so as to share a common understanding of the model in question as a basis for developing and institutionalizing a formal, effective service-driven partnership between local/urban governments and local universities.

If selected for the fully funded (not to exceed a maximum of $4000.00 US) training opportunity the organizers will subsequently send out formal letters of invitation to selected pairs of individuals to participate in the training so long as the individuals agree to a set of conditions that will accompany the invitation. Funding is limited so we encourage submission of expressions of interest as soon as possible.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information on the EPIC-N model and network, check on the following web sites:

epicn.uoregon.edu

www.epicn.org

Thank you for your cooperation and we look forward to receiving your expressions of interest as soon as possible.