

# Conclusion

By Mary Ellen Mazey, Ph.D.

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*Dr. Mazey*

**O**ver the past 10 years HUD has become an important catalyst for partnership building at the local level. By initiating and sustaining the Community Outreach Partnership Centers (COPC) program, HUD has facilitated hundreds of partnerships that are successfully addressing the most critical social and economic issues that this country is facing—poverty, education, housing, and local neighborhood capacity building.

Colleges and universities have benefited in two important ways since COPC was established in 1994. Monetary grants distributed through the program have been extremely helpful in allowing institutions of higher education (IHEs) to become actively engaged in their local communities. In addition, the program's guiding principles have helped inform the engagement work of COPC grantees and have helped to ensure the success of that work. The scholars and policymakers who envisioned COPC a decade ago—and the administrators who have implemented the program since then—had a keen understanding of the characteristics that must be present if campus-community partnerships are to be successful. These characteristics, which become second nature to every COPC grantee, include:

- ◆ **Grassroots Ownership.** Campus-community partnerships will never succeed unless local residents are intimately involved in making decisions about what outreach, technical assistance, and applied research work will be implemented in their neighborhoods. Guided by this principle, neighborhood residents, community-based organizations, and university representatives have learned to work collaboratively through the COPC program. Together, they have identified critical issues in their local communities and, together, they have carried out strategies to resolve those issues.

*As the COPC program enters its second decade, our challenge will be to continue applying its model of engagement . . . to the new and more complex issues that we will undoubtedly encounter in the future.*

- ◆ **Scholarly Expertise.** Even when community members take ownership of their problems and solutions, they still depend on the plentiful resources that colleges and universities can bring to bear on local issues. The COPC program has given IHEs a powerful incentive to apply their scholarly expertise to the challenges facing their neighborhoods. Research activities, which in previous years might have been carried out in a vacuum, now are tied closely to outreach activities. As a result, local communities receive the tools they need to help themselves.
- ◆ **Institutional Commitment.** The COPC program encourages colleges and universities to make a long-term investment, both financial and human in their local neighborhoods. In this way, community outreach becomes part of the institution's mission and determines the way the institution does business, the way it educates its students, and the way it relates to its neighbors. This institutional commitment is what sets COPC apart from other grant programs. Without such a commitment, COPCs would only be as good as their latest grant. With this commitment, COPC goals are the university's goals.

As the COPC program enters its second decade, our challenge will be to continue applying its model of engagement—a model that has served us well—to the new and more complex issues that we will undoubtedly encounter in the future. In addition, we will need to take deliberate action to strengthen the existing partnerships in our COPC neighborhoods and to establish additional partnerships in new communities. Meeting this challenge will call for creative thinking at the local level; at the national level, it will require that HUD and OUP find new and creative ways to support our endeavors.

OUP has a proven track record of responsiveness to the changing needs of its grantees. Since the New Directions grant was introduced in 1999, OUP has provided existing COPCs with the means to take their community engagement work to the next level by expanding successful partnerships and tackling new





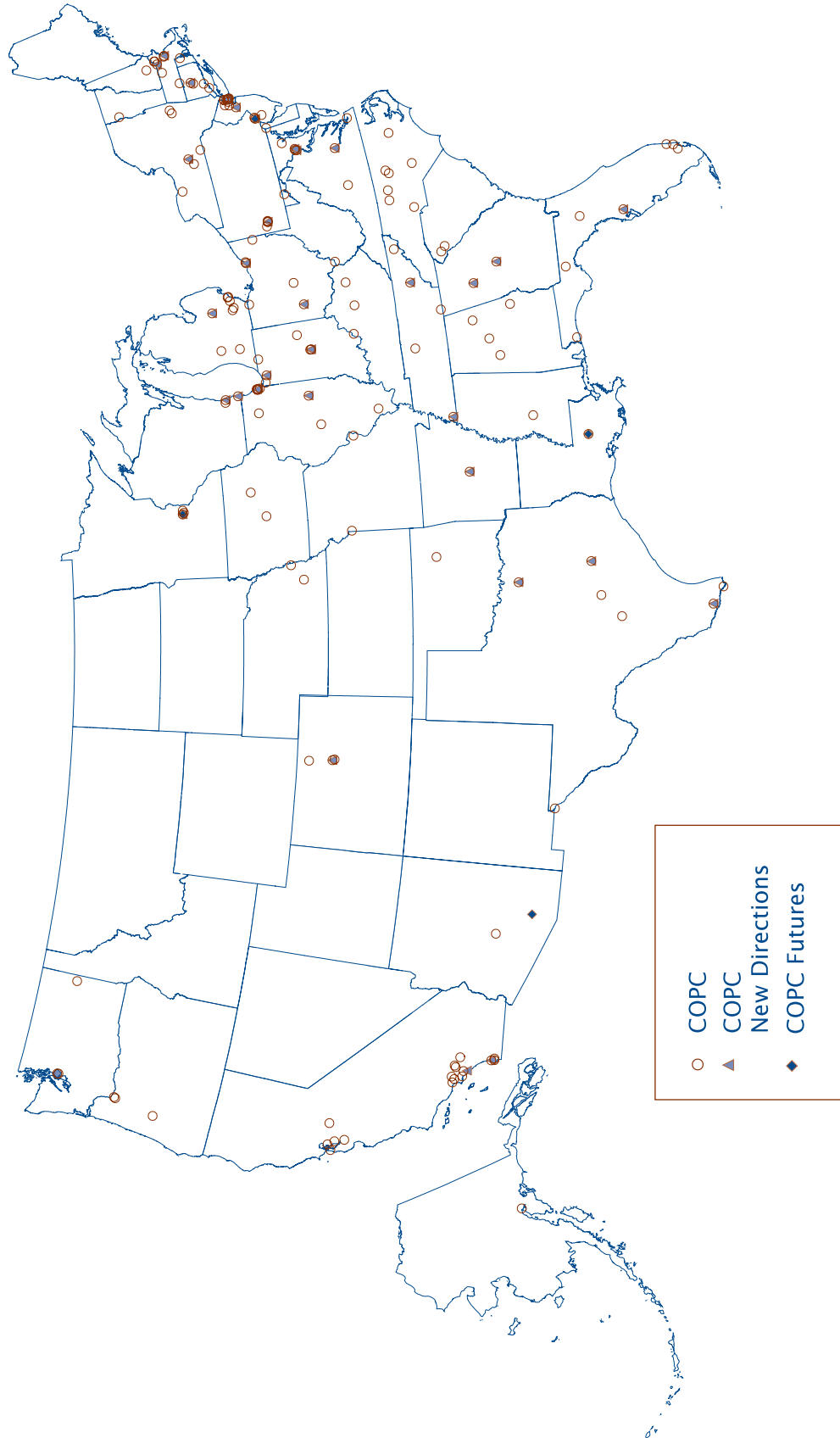
areas of outreach. The Community Futures Demonstration Program, instituted in 2003, allows COPCs to expand their urban missions even further by developing needed housing plans and addressing issues of community growth.

This federal responsiveness will continue to be important as colleges and universities, and their community partners, strive to expand even further the roles they play in the revitalization of neighborhoods, cities, towns, and counties across the country. Together, HUD and IHEs can ensure that more communities will be touched by “the power of partnership,” which we celebrate in this anniversary publication. Together, we can use that power to transform distressed communities into vibrant collaboratives that bring about positive changes at the local level and, in the process, improve the quality of life for all Americans. ■

*Together, HUD and IHEs can ensure that more communities will be touched by “the power of partnership” . . . together, we can use that power to transform distressed communities into vibrant collaboratives that bring about positive changes at the local level and, in the process, improve the quality of life for all Americans.*

# Appendix

## The Evolution of COPC



# COPC Grantees

## 1994–2003

### 1994

Arizona State University  
Barnhard College/Columbia University/City College of the  
City University of New York  
Duquesne University  
Merrimack College  
Michigan State University/University of Michigan/Wayne  
State University  
Pratt Institute  
San Francisco State University/University of California at  
Berkeley/Stanford University  
Texas A&M University  
Trinity College  
University of California, Los Angeles  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
University of South Florida  
University of Texas–Pan American  
Yale University

### 1995

Case Western Reserve University/Cleveland State  
University/Cuyahoga Community College  
DePaul University  
George Mason University/Northern Virginia  
Community College  
Georgia State University/Georgia Institute of Technology  
Marshall University  
Milwaukee Area Technical College/University of  
Wisconsin–Milwaukee  
University of Alabama at Birmingham/Miles  
College/Lawson State Community College  
University of Delaware/Delaware Technical and  
Community College  
University of Florida/Santa Fe Community College  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
University of Massachusetts Boston/Bunker Hill  
Community College/Roxbury Community College  
University of Memphis/LeMoyné Owen College  
University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
University of Texas at Austin

### 1996

Central Connecticut State University  
Howard University  
Hunter College  
Los Angeles Trade Technical College  
Northeastern University  
Ohio State University  
Portland State University  
Stillman College  
Temple University  
Tulsa Community College  
University of California, Davis  
University of Massachusetts Lowell  
University of Michigan–Flint  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of San Diego

### 1997

Brooklyn College  
Buffalo State College  
Clemson University  
Fitchburg State College  
Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis  
New Hampshire College  
San Jose State University  
Santa Ana College/University of California, Irvine  
University of California, San Diego  
University of Missouri–Kansas City  
University of Nebraska at Omaha  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill/Duke  
University  
University of North Texas  
University of Rhode Island/Rhode Island School of  
Design/Roger Williams University  
University of Wisconsin–Parkside  
Virginia Commonwealth University

### 1998

East Tennessee State University  
Fayetteville State University  
Florida Atlantic University  
Florida International University

## Community Outreach Partnership Centers (COPC)

Through its COPC initiative, HUD's Office of University Partnerships, provides 3-year grants of up to \$400,000 to encourage institutions of higher education granting 2- to 4-year degrees, and consortia of these institutions, to join in partnerships with their communities. Funds from this program are used to establish centers that address the problems of urban areas.

COPCs play an active and visible role in community revitalization—applying research to real urban problems, coordinating outreach efforts with neighborhood groups and residents, acting as a local information exchange, galvanizing support for neighborhood revitalization, developing public service projects and instructional programs, and collaborating with other COPCs. In neighborhoods nationwide, COPCs are responding to the most urgent needs of urban communities, thus institutionalizing their joint efforts to revitalize local communities.

### COPC New Directions Grantees

Introduced in 1999, the New Directions program provides former COPCs 2-year grants of \$150,000 to help expand their existing COPC program, and to develop new activities in their target neighborhoods or new projects in new target neighborhoods.

### COPC Community Futures Demonstration Grantees

Through this program HUD's Office of University Partnerships awards 3-year grants of \$250,000 to \$400,000 to schools of architecture, planning, or design—at 2- and 4-year colleges, and universities—in housing design awards and planning awards. These funds are used to establish and operate COPCs to:

- ◆ Develop case study housing plans that incorporate innovative technologies, good design, energy efficiency, universal design, accessibility and affordability, so that homes can become economically viable and marketable in the local area.
- ◆ Develop long-range plans that address future growth and development trends in these areas or region.

## 1998 (cont'd)

Illinois Institute of Technology  
Iowa State University  
Kean University  
Rutgers University  
University of Alaska, Anchorage  
University of Arkansas at Little Rock  
University of Colorado at Denver  
University of Illinois at Springfield  
University of Louisville  
University of Maryland, Baltimore  
University of Minnesota/Macalester College/Metropolitan State University  
University of North Carolina at Charlotte  
University of North Carolina at Greensboro  
Wright State University

## 1999

Butler University  
Cornell University  
Georgetown University  
Howard University\*  
Loyola University, Chicago  
Lynchburg College  
Mercer University  
Occidental College  
Pratt Institute\*  
Rowan University  
Springfield College/Springfield Technical College/American International College  
State University of New York at Cortland  
University of Michigan–Flint\*  
University of Oregon  
University of South Florida\*  
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga  
University of Tennessee, Knoxville\*  
University of Texas–Pan American\*  
University of Toledo  
University of Vermont  
University of West Florida  
Valparaiso University

## 2000

Auburn University  
Ball State University  
Barry University  
California State University, Hayward  
Danville Community College  
DePaul University\*

Duquesne University\*  
Indiana University Northwest  
Medgar Evers College  
Medical College of Wisconsin  
Seattle Central Community College  
Texas A&M University\*  
Tidewater Community College  
Trinity College, Hartford\*  
University of Denver  
University of Memphis\*  
University of Northern Iowa  
University of Pennsylvania\*  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of Rhode Island\*  
University of Southern California  
University of Wisconsin–Parkside\*  
Western Michigan University  
Youngstown State University

## 2001

California State Polytechnic Institute  
Calvin College  
Cleveland State University\*  
Eastern Michigan University  
Gadsden State Community College  
George Mason University\*  
Georgia State University\*  
Housatonic Community College  
Louisiana State University  
Montclair State University  
New Jersey City University  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Southern Illinois University Carbondale  
Texas Southmost College  
University of California, Irvine\*  
University of California, San Diego\*  
University of Chicago  
University of Colorado at Denver\*  
University of the Pacific  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign\*  
University of Kentucky  
University of Minnesota\*  
University of Missouri  
University of Nebraska, Nebraska  
University of Texas at Brownville

## 2002

Claremont Graduate University  
Colorado State University

East Carolina University  
Frostburg State University  
Mercer University\*  
Morehead State University  
Northern Essex Community College  
Northern Illinois University  
Robert Morris University  
Rutgers University \*  
San Diego Community College District  
Spokane Falls Community College  
State University of New York at Binghamton  
University of Arkansas at Little Rock\*  
University of Massachusetts, Lowell\*  
University of Michigan–Dearborn  
University of North Texas\*  
University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio  
University of Washington  
University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee\*  
Vanderbilt University  
Virginia Commonwealth University\*

## 2003

Anderson College  
Butler University\*  
California State University, Long Beach  
Florida State University  
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis\*  
Louisiana State University\*\*  
Point Park College  
Portland Community College  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
State University of New York at Cortland\*  
University of California, Riverside  
University of Notre Dame  
University of Arizona\*\*  
University of Massachusetts Boston\*  
University of Minnesota\*\*  
University of Pennsylvania\*\*  
University of Texas at El Paso  
University of Washington\*\*  
Valparaiso University\*  
Winston-Salem State University  
Wright State University

\* COPC New Directions Grantees

\*\* COPC Community Futures Demonstration Grantees

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