

February 24, 2010

Dear Colleague:

For fifteen years, The Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities (CUMU) has brought together universities committed to the fullest possible engagement with their host cities and metropolitan areas. The focal point of our organization's work is our annual conference. With a record attendance of 300, the 15th annual CUMU Conference hosted by Widener University was by all measurements a huge success. The conference themed "Building Community Resiliency: The Role of University Leadership" featured over 100 concurrent presenters and keynote speakers such as Jean-Michel Cousteau, Congressman Chaka Fattah, and Sherone Ivey, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of University Partnerships. On October 24-26, 2010, we will meet in Fresno, where California State University, Fresno will host the 16th annual conference "Aligning the Metropolitan University with Business, Government, and the Non-Profit Sector." Under the superb leadership of President John Welty, this conference promises to be extremely stimulating and sharply focused on issues of enormous interest to our members. I encourage everyone to attend.

The CUMU Executive Committee invites you to submit a proposal to host the 2012 or 2013 annual conference. The Coalition provides the host institution with \$20,000 to cover keynote speakers and other related expenses. Proposals to host the conference should be brief (three pages maximum), specifying the following:

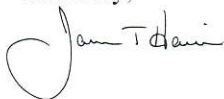
- proposed conference theme;
- tentative dates (October is recommended);
- conference length (usually two and a half days, Sunday morning afternoon through Tuesday noon);
- venue (on- and off-campus and hotel);
- level of institutional support (including your plan for executing the conference i.e. campus-wide committee, conference services coordinator, etc.)

Proposals should be submitted by **May 15, 2010**, and will be reviewed by the CUMU Conference and Executive Committees in June. Please e-mail or mail proposals to:

James T. Harris, III
President
Widener University
1 University Place
Chester, PA 19013
jtharris@widener.edu

If you have an questions please contact the Coalition Headquarters by phone at (410) 704-3700 or by email at cumu@towson.edu. I thank you for your continued involvement with the Coalition for Urban and Metropolitan Universities and hope that you will consider this invitation and submit a proposal to host the 2012 or 2013 conference.

Sincerely,



James T. Harris
President, Widener University
CUMU Conference Committee Chair