

Media Release

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Fresno State to host the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities' annual conference

National conference will focus on the intersection of anchor institutions including urban universities, businesses, government, and nonprofit organizations.

Fresno State will host the 16th annual Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities (CUMU) Conference October 24 – 26. CUMU brings together the largest gathering of presidents, administrators, and faculty from universities that share the unique mission of striving for national excellence while contributing to the economic development, social health and cultural vitality of the urban and metropolitan centers they serve.

This year, CUMU members will be joined by business and government leaders interested in working together to rebuild America's cities. CUMU member universities are among the most critical anchor institutions in their communities and vital to the city's success. "Fresno serves as an excellent background for conversations on how the many elements of a sustainable and vibrant urban culture fit together. Our city of more than a half-million residents has a cultural diversity and genuine spirit that earned Fresno the distinction of being named an All-American City," says John Welty, Fresno State President and CUMU Vice-President.

This year's conference features over 90 presentations examining topics related to economic development, infrastructure development and human development. Furthermore, speakers will focus on the relationships and synergies among the three topics and the alignment of academic programs and priorities with urban and community initiatives. Featured speakers include:

- Richard Florida, Author, *The Rise of the Creative Class* and *Who's your city?*
- Congressman Chaka Fattah, Chairman of the Congressional Urban Caucus
- Heather McLeod Grant, Author, *Forces for Good: The Six Practices of High-Impact Nonprofits*
- Doug Henton, Chairman and CEO, Collaborative Economics Advisors to Civic Entrepreneurs
- Ashley Swearingin, Mayor, Fresno, California
- Michael D. King, Vice President, IBM, Global Education Industry

For more information on the conference, visit <http://www.cumuonline.org/conference>.

Founded in 1990, the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities (CUMU) is the premier higher education resource for urban and metropolitan institutions that seek new ways of using their human and physical resources to address the problems of their metropolitan area. CUMU is a leadership organization bringing together presidents, administrators, and faculty to share best practices through conferences, seminars, networks, and publications, including the internationally recognized Metropolitan Universities Journal. The Coalition includes 80 member universities that represent over 50 metropolitan communities.