



The Policy Studies Organization

DUPONT SUMMIT 2012

..... Pressing Issues Amid the Political Maelstrom

December 7, 2012 * Carnegie Institution for Science, Washington, DC
Sponsored by the American Public University and the George Mason University

Panel Speakers

Dr. Grady Hanrahan, John Stauffer Professor of Analytical Chemistry, *California Lutheran University*

Dr. Haco Hoang, Associate Professor of Political Science, *California Lutheran University*

Michelle Vargas, Public Relations Specialist

Topic

"Integrating Science Into Civic Engagement Through University-Community Research Collaborations: Promoting Environmental Health and Well-Being in Agricultural Communities"

The WK Kellogg Foundation defines community-based participatory research (CBPR) as a "collaborative approach...(that) begins with a research topic of importance to the community, has the aim of combining knowledge with action and achieving social change to improve health outcomes and eliminate health disparities." The purpose of this panel is to demonstrate how fostering university-community partnerships is an ideal way to institutionalize the CBPR approach in agricultural communities because affected populations often lack the expertise or resources to produce methodologically rigorous data to promote environmental health and well-being. Community-based research projects are often limited in their scope, breadth and public impact without the cooperation and/or access to affected populations. Professionally trained researchers can produce empirical data to support the public education and advocacy efforts of community-based organizations seeking positive social change, and academic researchers have the opportunity to apply their skills and knowledge to serve the public by addressing real world problems. (cont. below)



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Promoting Environmental Health and Well-Being in Agricultural Communities"**

(cont. from above)

The panelists will discuss how their project - focusing on environmental problems in the agricultural community of Oxnard, California - serves as an example of a university-community research partnership. The goal of the two-year project funded by the California Wellness Foundation is to develop a model for integrating scientific data into civic engagement by: 1) measuring pollution exposure in agricultural communities, and 2) evaluating how stakeholders - affected populations, policy makers and local organizations - can be involved in promoting environmental health and well-being in impacted communities.