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Universities as Protagonists for Smart Growth

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (April 11, 2005) – Driven in part by the severity of urban problems, institutions of higher education have started to play active roles in bringing their intellectual and institutional resources to bear on the shape and health of their communities, according to a new book entitled, *Partnerships for Smart Growth: University-Community Collaboration for Better Public Places*.

Colleges and universities are engaging in smart growth activities through changes in their curriculum, the development of smart growth research centers, through collaborations with other organizations, and through active participation in the planning within their own communities, the newly published book concludes.

It chronicles university activities related to smart growth in a dozen states: Wisconsin (both the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the University of Wisconsin); Tennessee (University of Chattanooga); North Carolina (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill); Maryland (University of Maryland); Michigan (Michigan State University); Pennsylvania (Cornell University of Ithaca, New York); Oregon (University of Oregon); Massachusetts (University of Massachusetts); Florida (University of Florida); Indiana (Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis); and, New Jersey (Rutgers University).

Edited by Gerrit-Jan Knaap, executive director of the National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education at the University of Maryland, and Wim Wiewel, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at the University of Baltimore, the book contains a collection of essays from around the nation highlighting case studies in which universities and colleges have become smart growth practitioners.

“In their curricula, as part of a collaborative, as the home to a research center, or as a member of the community, universities across the United States are protagonists of smart growth,” Knaap and Wiewel say in the book’s introduction. “No two universities are the same, and no two promote growth in the same way. Still,

evidence is ample in this volume's chapters that universities can promote the principles of smart growth."

The book resulted from an initiative of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to increase cooperation with academic organizations by highlighting university-community partnerships related to smart growth issues.

Wiewel, a past president of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, and Knaap, a professor of urban studies and planning, solicited chapters through a request for proposals and received more than 70 proposals. Thirteen articles were chosen, which were written by a total of 29 separate contributors. The thirteen articles, in turn, were divided in the book as they relate to changes in curriculum, creation of research centers, and community collaboration or involvement.

The project was undertaken by the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, with support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, a non-profit educational institution located in Cambridge, Mass.

Copies of the book can be obtained for \$63.96 clothbound or \$27.96 paperback by contacting M.E. Sharpe at www.mesharpe.com, or by calling 800-541-6563. The book is available free of charge online at http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/univ_collaboration.htm.

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