



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Northern Michigan Regional Planning Director Selected for International Fellowship

TRAVERSE CITY, MI—Matt McCauley, the director of regional planning and community development for the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments (NWMCOG), has been selected to receive a research fellowship to study the linkages between regional planning and workforce development in Europe. McCauley received the fellowship through the Urban and Regional Policy Program of the German Marshall Fund. He was one of just three recipients selected from a very competitive pool of domestic and international candidates.

“I’m very excited about this honor and the opportunity to learn abroad,” said McCauley. “I expect to bring back many ideas that can apply to northern Michigan and perhaps also to other state and national initiatives being built around regions.”

McCauley will spend a month this summer researching the alignment of regional planning and workforce development through the lens of the European Union’s Smart Specialization (S3) platform. The S3 platform involves a process of developing a vision, identifying competitive advantage, setting strategic priorities and making use of smart policies to maximize the knowledge-based development potential of any region, strong or weak, high-tech or low-tech. He will begin his trip in Seville, Spain and continue on to the country’s Basque Region, before travelling to the Flanders Region of Belgium, and the Centre Region of France.

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The Urban and Regional Policy Program promotes practical, hands-on exchanges and networking activities, and supports policy analysis on pressing regional policy challenges. The German Marshall Fund of the United States, a non-partisan public policy and grant making institution, strengthens transatlantic cooperation on regional, national, and global challenges and opportunities by supporting individuals and institutions working on pressing public policy issues.

McCauley's fellowship will be paid by a 100 percent scholarship, with major funding provided by Bank of America and the Compagnia di San Paolo.

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NOTE to Media: Images are oftentimes available upon request by e-mailing Tom White at tomwhite@nwm.cog.mi.us and stating preferences for resolution (300 dpi?), file format (.tif? .jpg?) and file size (1MB or less?). Or, phone (231) 929-5044. Check our online Media Room at: nwm.org/media

Founded in 1974, the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments (NWMCOG) facilitates and manages various programs and services for the 10 county region. These programs include Northwest Michigan Works, YouthBuild, Small Business & Technology Development Center, Procurement Technical Assistance Center, various business services, and many different regional planning initiatives in response to our communities' requests and needs. You will see the broad spectrum of workforce, business and community services NWMCOG offers if you visit our web site, nwm.org

NWMCOG's member counties are: Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford.