

RCE
2015

CONFERENCE
OF THE AMERICAS
GRAND RAPIDS, MI



Grand Rapids to host RCE Conference of the Americas from Aug 9-11, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
GRAND RAPIDS, MI, July 10, 2015

Grand Rapids will host the Regional Centres of Expertise 2015 Conference of the Americas on August 9-11. The RCEs are a network of organizations acknowledged by the United Nations University to educate on sustainable development in its community.

The conference will provide a global platform that elevates the conversation around education for sustainable development with a focus on the impact of water resources. We welcome leaders from six countries throughout the Americas and also the world, who are influential thinkers, researchers, authors, academics, and educators. Outcomes of the conference on education for sustainable development will impact and guide the implementation of future work of the RCE.

The RCE keynote speaker is John C. Austin director of the Michigan Economic Center at Prima Civitas Foundation, a center for ideas and network-building to advance Michigan's economic transformation. Austin was elected in 2000, and re-elected in 2008, by the people of Michigan to the State Board of Education, and unanimously elected President by his peers. He also serves as a Nonresident Senior Fellow with the Brookings Institution. The event will be held Monday August 10 at the City Flats Ballroom.

Cities and Countries Attending

Miraflores, Lima, Peru
Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Bogotá, Colombia
Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada
Dhaka, Bangladesh
Portland, Oregon, USA
Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, USA

Greater Sudbury, Ontario, Canada
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
Tokyo, Japan
Kano, Nigeria
Jalisco, Mexico
Trantramar, New Brunswick, Canada
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
And others...

Register

Community Sustainability Partners and other interested parties are invited to attend and network with RCE guests. For more information and to sponsor please visit www.rcegrandrapids.org

A schedule of events and tickets are available at www.events.blackbirdsvp.com/rcegr15

Contact

Gayle DeBruyn

RCE Grand Rapids, Leadership Team
GayleDeBruyn@ferris.edu

Why Grand Rapids?

Grand Rapids has been invited by the United Nations to host the RCE 2015 Conference of the Americas. In addition to that distinction, the city is only one of only five active RCEs in the US. Grand Rapids has developed significant sustainability credibility including having been voted most sustainable mid-sized city by US Chamber 2010. Grand Rapids is forty minutes from the Lake Michigan shoreline that has been named among the world's best. The Lake Michigan watershed is both beautiful and significant as the Great Lakes themselves contain one fifth of the world's surface freshwater. Additionally, Grand Rapids has been named one of the Top 15 Emerging Downtowns by Forbes.com. Culturally, the city now hosts the world's largest art competition and includes one of most-visited art museums. It also has a vibrant food and beer culture with farm-to-fork restaurants and it earned the title Best Beer City in 2012. There's a lot to enjoy here.

"Most sustainable mid-sized city -US Chamber 2010"

"Top 15 emerging downtowns - Forbes.com"

"# 5 in LEED certified buildings (per capita)"

"Top 10 emerging cities in the US Global Trade"

"Top 10 city for biopharmaceutical & R&D investment"

"# 1 Travel destination for 2014 - Lonely Planet for GR & MI West Coast"