Reports & Resources

Worldwide, People Divided on Whether Life Today Is Better Than in the Past
Pew Research Center | READ STORY

Fifty years ago, the world was a very different place. The United States and its allies were locked in a Cold War with the Soviet Union, personal computers and mobile phones were the stuff of science fiction, and much of the world’s population had yet to experience substantial improvements in life expectancy and material well-being.

The 2018 NACDEP Conference is June 10-13 in Cleveland, OH. Proposals for presentation sessions, workshops and posters are due Jan. 15. More information here.

The International Association for Community Development is pleased to announce its next Practice Exchange will be in Bali, Indonesia, tentatively scheduled for Oct. 9-19, 2018. More information will be available at the IACD website soon or feel free to contact me and I’ll add you to our email list.

Paul Lachapelle
MSU Community Development Specialist
5 Maps Show How Important Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Are to the Environment

Indigenous Peoples and local communities are some of the best environmental stewards. Their livelihoods and cultures depend on forests, clean water and other natural resources, so they have strong incentives to sustainably manage their lands. Today LandMark, the first global platform to provide maps of land held by Indigenous Peoples and local communities, released new carbon storage, tree cover loss, natural resource concessions, dam locations and other data layers that shed light on the environment in which these lands exist. Now anyone, anywhere can view and analyze indigenous and local communities’ environmental contributions and identify threats to specific lands.

Funding and Staff Shortages Keep Rural Libraries Focused on the Basics

Despite improvements in recent years, rural libraries tend to spend more per capita for fewer services and fewer open hours, according to a report from the American Library Association (ALA).

Upcoming Events

2018 JCEP Leadership Conference
February 14-15, 2018
Orlando, Florida
Sponsor: JCEP

2018 Building Active Communities Initiative
Workshop: May 8-10, 2018
Livingston, Montana
Building Active Communities Initiative (BACI)

2018 NACDEP Conference
June 10-13, 2018
Cleveland, Ohio
Sponsor: NACDEP

Detroit 2018: Renaissance Of Community Annual International Conference
July 22-25, 2018
Detroit, Michigan
Sponsor: Community Development Society

Grants, Awards & Jobs

The American Dream Literacy Initiative
Deadline: January 2
Funder: American Library Association

Funds to Assist Disadvantaged Populations & Underserved Communities
Deadline: January 31
Funder: MAXIMUS Foundation
Technology challenges, access to high speed internet, and funding to pay for staff and facilities are the main challenges facing rural community libraries, the report says.

A Global Snapshot of Same-Sex Marriage
Pew Research Center | READ STORY
With the Australian Parliament’s recent passage of legislation legalizing gay marriage, 26 countries now permit gays and lesbians to wed. And if a recent high court ruling in Europe’s Austria takes effect as expected in 2019, that country also will Join the Ranks of nations allowing same-sex unions. These events follow a number of other high-profile victories in recent years for gay marriage advocates, including Germany’s decision in June 2017 to allow gays and lesbians to wed and a Supreme Court ruling ruling two years earlier that made same-sex marriage legal in the United States.

Youth Migration in the West
Headwaters Economics |
READ STORY
Western counties are experiencing a wide disparity in youth migration. While some are attracting and keeping young adults and families, others are struggling. One of the biggest challenges facing rural Western counties today is keeping and attracting youth, who help maintain population, keep schools open, and provide the workforce and customers needed to sustain local businesses. As the interactive map immediately below shows, almost all western metro counties either are holding steady or gaining population from the in-migration of those aged 39 and under. Not surprisingly, the share of westemers living in urban areas is growing and is higher than the rest of the country.