# **University of Minnesota Retirees Association**

#### 7/1/20-6/30/21

## URVC Annual Report

### University Retirees Volunteer Center

### 7/21/21

### Eric Hockert – URVC Board Chair (FY21)

Since 1987 the University Retirees Volunteer Center (URVC) has served the University of Minnesota by matching volunteers with UMN and community projects in need of assistance. Many of our volunteers are University faculty and staff retirees. URVC is associated with the

URVC was active in 2020-2021, continued to operate and continued to provide meaningful opportunities for our many volunteers.

University through the Office of University Relations.

For the past decade, the number of hours of volunteer service steadily increased until 2020 when Covid-19 caused cancellation of many activities and especially those on campus. The average for the previous 3 years (FY17-19) was over 10,000 hours per year contributed by about 300 volunteers. During FY21 we had 174 volunteers contribute 6,884 hours of service – a substantial decrease from previous years. We expect during FY22 activity will rebound as our society and the University reopen and projects get underway again.

One of our goals has been to increase volunteer contributions to the University of Minnesota compared to projects in the community outside the University. We sent 69 total volunteer project announcements in FY21 of which 29% were UMN projects and the remaining 71% were community (non-UMN) projects. This is short of our eventual goal for UMN-related projects but is moving in a positive direction.

1 University Retirees Volunteer Center – URVC Annual Report for FY21 7/21/21 Just as many units have struggled to adapt to the restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic, the URVC encountered substantial reductions in the number of active volunteers as well as in the number of hours volunteered. However, the advice to work from home was easily followed since the URVC adopted an online volunteer management system in 2019 with financial support from the University. This software system facilitates many of the management functions previously accomplished by volunteer staff working in the URVC office. Since most of the office work is now being done remotely the physical redesign of the office space in McNamara Alumni Center (including the URVC office space) has not been a significant obstacle to URVC's continuing operations and effectiveness. However, we look forward to the completion of the design and build of a new office in McNamara Alumni Center (expected completion date in Fall 2021).

A significant accomplishment in FY21 was the creation of a Communications group to make the resources of URVC more broadly known throughout the University. One of its first successes was the completion of a one-page Snapshot document (Attachments Item A.) that summarizes URVC and describes how University units can access our volunteers for their projects. Other successes include completion of a Thank You card sent to volunteers, development of a photo database to be used to share the URVC story, and the inclusion of a monthly article spotlighting a volunteer related item in the UMRA newsletter (University of Minnesota Retirees' Association - UMRA). This group continues to expand its work with other activities in progress.

Some new projects started in FY21 to support the University of Minnesota include:

- Faculty retiree mentorship of Undergraduate Research scholars in collaboration with the Undergraduate Research Office. This project aligns with the University's System Wide Strategic Plan (SWSP, Goal 2.1 on slide 23, Attachment C).
- Coaching for Mandela Washington Fellows in cooperation with the College of Education and Human Development and the Humphrey School of Public Administration. This is a program of the U.S. State Department's Young African Leaders Initiative.
- Participation opportunities in the Institute for Advanced Studies (IAS) Health Forums Project for Advancing Healthcare Stewardship (PAHS).
- Participants for the Lower back pain intervention study in Rehabilitation Medicine.

Here are examples of the types of projects URVC supported in FY21 -

- Audio reader (MN State Services for the Blind)
- Tutoring computer skills (Open Door Learning Center, St. Paul, Midway)
- Tutoring English as a second language (ESL)
- Reader Writer program (Minneapolis and St. Paul Schools)
- Tutor in elementary schools (St. Paul, Minneapolis and suburbs)
- Environmental projects (Great River Greening)
- Mock Jury Trials (Mitchell-Hamline School of Law)
- History Day judges (Minnesota State Competitions)

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- Science Fair judges (Twin Cities Regional)
- Food insecurity (Second Harvest Heartland, Meals on Wheels)
- Medical research participants (University of Minnesota)
- Tax Aides (AARP)
- Mental health (Stress balls for the Center for the Victims of Torture)
- Student integrity (UMN Academic Integrity Matters/AIM)
- Medical student training (serving as "Community Health Teachers Medical School)
- And many more

We also established committees to review membership criteria, to update the By-Laws and to explore additional funding sources through the UMN Foundation.

URVC's operations have been updated and documented for future volunteers and leaders in the form of a URVC Handbook (Attachment Item B.).

The URVC appreciates continuing financial support (\$4,000 annually) provided by the Office of University Relations which serves to provide support for the annual cost of our volunteer management software system, costs of on campus parking for volunteers, volunteer recognition (Attacment Item D) and general office operations.

Eric Hockert URVC, Board Chair (FY21)

ATTACHMENTS

- A URVC Snapshot
- B-URVC Handbook
- C System Wide Strategic Plan (slide 23)
- D Thank you card



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

# University Retirees Volunteer Center (URVC) Snapshot

#### What is the University of Minnesota Retirees Volunteer Center?

The University Retirees Volunteer Center (URVC) provides opportunities for University of Minnesota–Twin Cities retirees to use their knowledge, skills and interests in volunteer service to University of Minnesota internal and external communities.

CURRENTLY

450

# University of Minnesota–Twin Cities retiree volunteers contribute approximately

#### 10,000 hours each year

with projects inside and outside the University of Minnesota.

#### Who are University Retirees Center Volunteers?

URVC volunteers are retired University of Minnesota faculty and staff representing the various academic, administrative and service units of the University of Minnesota–Twin Cities.

University retirees provide volunteer services offered through the URVC to University units and external community partners. QUESTIONS? For more information contact the URVC Office at urvc@umn.edu



#### What are University Retirees Center Objectives?

- To provide opportunities for service that are rewarding to University retiree volunteers
- To organize and disseminate information to University retirees about opportunities for volunteer service within the University and the external community
- To act as a referral service to University units and community agencies seeking volunteers

### University of Minnesota Retirees Center Volunteers in Action

- Academic Integrity Matters (AIM) University faculty, staff and community volunteer panel (U of MN Student Development)
- Community Teacher Health Inter-professional Education at the University of Minnesota (Academic Health Sciences)
- Research study participant Center for Magnetic Resonance and Ready Study Health Study (Academic Health Sciences; School of Nursing)
- Minnesota English Language Program (MELP) tutor, University of Minnesota

- Rarig Theater Greeter/Usher (U of MN Theater Department, CLA)
- > Murray Reading Tutor Program (St. Paul Schools)
- Writer/Reader Program (Folwell Junior High, (Minneapolis Public Schools)
- International Institute Adult Literacy (International Institute of Minnesota)
- Minnesota Urban League Debate judge; History Day judge; K-12 science project judge

\*The above list represents a sampling of volunteer opportunities and is not an exhaustive list.





Commitment 2 - Discovery, Innovation & Impact	Goal	Action Items	Refreshed Measure(s)	(1) Dashboard; (2) Updated Maroon/Gold; or (3) MPACT 2025 SWSP Measure
Channeling curiosity, investing in discovery to cultivate possibility, and innovating solutions while elevating Minnesota and society as a whole.	2.1. Increase high-impact discovery and scholarship.	Prioritize research opportunities for all students.	Increase UG research opportunities	Maroon/Gold
		Increase year-over-year funding growth for research and industry-sponsored awards.	Increase research expenditures (extramural, federal, corporate)	Dashboard; Maroon/Gold
		Advance career outcomes for graduate students and postdocs.	Survey; increase number	Maroon/Gold

Previous Gold Measure	Previous Maroon Measure	New Measure	

