Hello, my name is Huston Gibson. I am an Assistant Professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional and Community Planning at Kansas State University. I have both my Doctor of Philosophy and Master of Science degree in planning. For my undergraduate degree, a Bachelor of Arts, I majored in psychology and minored in sociology. Collectively I am interested in communities and their relationships with the people who live in them, with a scholarship focus on sustainable community infrastructure.

Before joining the faculty at Kansas State University in 2010, I obtained working experience in both the public and private sectors of community planning and development in the state of Florida. Since becoming a faculty member at K-State, I have continued to work with communities, in the Great Plains, via community-engagement projects at my academic institution, including: St. Mary’s, KS; Nicodemus, KS; Union, NE; Jetmore, KS, and Park City, KS. With all projects, I place a strong
emphasise on fair practice and collective decision-making; making certain I always work "with" communities, rather than "for" them.

As a faculty member in the Great Plains Idea Community Development program, I teach (on rotation with other GPIdea faculty) Community Analysis and Principles and Strategies of Community Change. In addition, I serve on many GPIdea Community Development student capstone committees, and am taking on an increasing role related to the program at K-State. I consider myself extremely fortunate to serve as an instructor in the institution of higher learning, and enjoy sharing assorted topics in our field. Mostly, I find it greatly rewarding to see students get excited about the scholarship of communities.

If we have not yet had the chance to interact through classes in our program, I hope you will introduce yourself to me sometime, perhaps at an upcoming community development or planning conference. Also, if you are interested in knowing more about my scholarship, you can read one of my more recent academic publications here: Gibson, H. (2014). The Middle School Syndrome. Society, 51(2), 152-155.

**Required Course Offerings**

**Summer 2015 Schedule**

Community Development II: Organizing for Community Change (ISU, Borich)

**Fall 2015 Schedule**

Community Development Orientation (SDSU, Dr. Emery)

Community Development I: Principles & Strategies of Community Change (NDSU, Dr. Goreham)

**Elective Course Offerings**

**Summer 2015**

Grant Development & Management (KSU, Dr. Johannes)

This course will focus on the intricacies of grantsmanship. Topics covered will include identification of funding sources, procedure for proposal preparation, composition of grants, and the effects of organizational and personal linkages. Assignments include proposal preparation, grant application based upon a RFP or a continuous funding sources, addendum or market analysis, and an on-line presentation.

Immigrants in Communities (ISU)

Course work will address the considerable demand across the region for such a course from individuals working in communities with new immigrant populations. Many areas in the US experience an increasing immigrant population who represent an important economic engine, but may also be a source of concerns about community continuity and change. This course will be available to practitioners who are facing these issues in their communities and want to frame positive community action.
Thank you!

YOUR Ideas Are Welcome!

If you have news item, a favorite website, book or article, you can share it in the newsletter. We would also like to hear if there is an CD student that inspires you that we may be able to feature here. Send your contributions to Joni Mueller at:

JONI.MUELLER@SDSTATE.EDU

You can also share pictures and stories of your work in community development.

Populations are aging in all of the OECD countries, especially in rural areas. Lower fertility and out-migration of young people is off-set in many counties are off-set by new immigrants. While welcomed by the economic interests, they are seen a putting pressure on social services, of questionable legal status, and of being different. The course will take a comparative approach to how different countries and different communities have responded to new immigrants, based on literature from Australia, Europe, Canada, and the U.S., with reference to Japan and New Zealand. Class members will carry out case studies of the inclusion of immigrants in their own community and an action plan for increasing inclusion to contribute to the economic vitality of that place.

Participatory Action Research Methods (KSU, Dr. Griswold)
A course to develop participatory action research knowledge and skills through real-world applications. Participatory Action Research is a method of collecting information by community members in collaboration with a researcher that respects, places community central to, and reflects the experiences and culture of the people most directly impacted by the issue under consideration.

Topics in Community Development (TBD)

Fall 2015

Community Leadership & Capacity Building (SDSU, Dr. Emery) This course will explore the various approaches to leadership and leadership development, evaluation of leadership projects, and the relationship of leadership to community capacity building. Topics include defining leadership, challenges and opportunities related to leadership, designing and development leadership, impact of leadership training on community development, and evaluation of leadership development programs.

Economic Development Strategies & Programs (ISU) This course will cover the most widely used strategies and programs for economic development within an action planning process. Retention and expansion of business and industry, retail development and downtown revitalization, incubating new firm creation, industrial attraction, and tourism development all will be covered. These are both strategies and programs that utilize all forms of capital from all sources, the private, public, and nonprofit sectors. Students will study the organized efforts to plan, build, and manage each program.

Environmental Law (ISU) To acquaint students with the fundamentals of state and federal pollution control law. Major topics include: air pollution control, water pollution control, toxic substances control, solid waste management and disposal, Superfund, wetlands, endangered species, land use regulation, environmental assessment, environmental law administration and enforcement, and global environmental law.

Sustainable Communities (ISU, Balassiano) This course links the management of natural capital to other community-based actions around resource allocation and the
impacts on quality of life. The literature on community-based natural resource management will be examined and alternative ways of valuing natural capital will be assessed. Contrasting theories of the role of natural capital in communities and human society will be linked to their implications for community sustainability in terms of economic vitality, social well-being, and ecosystem health.

**Indian Country Agriculture & Natural Resources (SDSU)**

This course will introduce the student to the historical and contemporary issues related to natural resource management on Native American lands. Students will study a variety of ecological settings across Native American lands, and analyze tribal sovereignty as it relates to land tenure and water rights. Federal, State, and Tribal policies concerning agriculture, fisheries, wildlife, parks and wilderness co-management, water supply and quality, emerging zoonotic diseases, and agri-security will be debated. Philosophical and economic arguments concerning natural resource conservation, preservation and extraction will be explored.

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**Planning Ahead**

[CD Course schedule matrix](http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs189/1106770492956/archive/11198...)