



Volunteer with *UrbanPlan*

Educating tomorrow's voters, neighbors, community leaders, and land use professionals

UrbanPlan is a realistic, engaging and academically challenging classroom-based curriculum in which high school seniors learn the roles, issues, economics and tradeoffs involved in urban development. Students learn how market forces (e.g. supply and demand) interact with non-market forces (e.g. regulations, politics, interest groups) in real life.

"UrbanPlan is amazing and makes me so proud of the kids. I thoroughly enjoy the entire day. The students really get it and learn a ton. They are grateful and respectful and fun. It is COMPLETELY worth my time as a volunteer."

John Shardlow, Principal
Bonestroo

How does *UrbanPlan* work in the classroom?

Over the course of three weeks, students form company teams to respond to a "Request for Proposals" for the redevelopment of a specific urban area with the goal of winning the contract. Each team member assumes one of five roles: finance director, marketing director, city liaison, neighborhood liaison, and site planner. Through these roles, students develop a real-life understanding of the various stakeholders in the development process and the challenge of reconciling competing agendas to create a well-designed, sustainable project.

Teams address challenging financial, social, political, and design issues, develop a business proposal and a three-dimensional model of their plan, and present their proposal to a "City Council" of ULI members that awards the contract to the winning team.

The ULI Minnesota *UrbanPlan* experience

UrbanPlan Minnesota began in Roseville High School in 2006 with teacher Steve Bekemeyer, it was expanded into Benilde-St. Margaret's High School, under the guidance of teacher Amy Weisgram in the Spring of 2009.

Volunteers are essential!

Local land use professionals, who have attended *UrbanPlan* volunteer training, interact several times with the student teams—as facilitators, presenters, and jurors. The program's success is dependent on our volunteers!



UrbanPlan volunteer time commitment:

- 5 hour training session
- 2 hour preparation for the training session
- “Facilitators” and “presenters” volunteer a minimum of two class periods (50 minutes)
- “City council members” (jurors) volunteer approximately half a day
- Consider making a meaningful contribution for as little as one-half day, one or two times a year.

What the students say

“This project has influenced my decision on future professions and college education. With the skills I have gained through UrbanPlan, I can envision myself becoming very successful in the business field. Again, thank you for this rewarding opportunity and I hope you continue to expand this program in the future.”

Katie Cooney, Roseville Area High School

“I came into this class expecting nothing more than a ton of worksheets and a small short speech at the end. I was wrong. UrbanPlan is a well put together process to work as a team and develop a wonderful project. This was the greatest experience of my high school career.”

Wade Piche, Roseville Area High School

Thank you Urban Land Institute for increasing our awareness of our city environment, how it is constructed and how it affects our lives. It also has allowed us to become aware of the professional world. We have increased our skills in many areas, for that we are indebted to you.

Danielle, Robinson, Carolyn Vanous, Andrew Messer, Yasmin Kinnunen, Michael Hansen, Roseville Area High School

Get involved with *UrbanPlan*!

To volunteer with *UrbanPlan*, please contact Chris Kennelly at Chris.kennelly@theexcelsiorgrp.com, ULI Minnesota's *UrbanPlan* chair.