**CED14: Urban Community Resiliency Advisor**

**DESCRIPTION**

The general disciplinary focus of this position is youth, families, and communities with an emphasis on the nexus of youth, community and economic development. The Advisor would investigate ways to enhance communities through applied research activities that lead to community and economic designs that foster more connected and cohesive neighborhoods. Some of the issues to be explored include access to education, housing, entrepreneurship and community wealth, green infrastructure development and job creation. The preferred educational and professional background requirements include a minimum of a master’s degree in community development, education, sociology, urban planning, economics, economic development or related fields and the position will report to the Los Angeles County Director and work with many supporting units including ANR statewide programs such as the 4-H Youth Development Program, the Community Development Program, the Positive Youth Development.

**JUSTIFICATION**

While ANR has long had a focus in technical fields such as youth development as well as a focus on community development and rural assistance, these two areas have tended to work separately. Given the increasing pressure on urban communities due to disparities and inequities in educational experiences and opportunities amongst Black and Latinx youth, systemic racial barriers, inadequate access to wealth building, it is an important time to integrate ANR's applied research and extension efforts with diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) lens to better ensure long-term community resiliency and economic development particularly in urban areas in the Greater Los Angeles area such as South Los Angeles, Gateway Cities Compton, South Gate, Lynwood, East Los Angeles, Northeast San Fernando Valley and the Antelope Valley.

This advisor would focus on providing technical assistance for educators (formal and informal) and urban and community and economic development planners enhancing both short and long-term community resiliency in the face of civil discourse and disagreement.

The advisor will serve as the Cooperative Extension regional lead for youth and community development. High priority subject areas include educational disparities, community development and vitality and resiliency. The advisor will be expected to work cooperatively with the state of California including the California Department of Education (CDE) and community development groups, The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC), the Hub for Urban Living (South Coast Research and Extension Center) and UC investigators. In addition, the Advisor will create collaborative synergistic relationships with local and non-governmental partners to develop and facilitate youth and community vitality throughout the Greater Los Angeles Region with an emphasis on underserved and often disadvantaged communities.

This position will contribute to UC ANR's goals of promoting economic prosperity in California - particularly in communities of color - through enhanced community development and community wealth building.

**EXTENSION**

The position will be expected to work in partnership with organizations involved in community development, urban planning, education, and social justice advocates, take an active role in public outreach and develop strong collaborations with key community groups and other non-governmental organizations. The advisor will collaborate with UCCE Advisors and Specialists (i.e., Martin Smith and Keith Taylor) as well as other UC and university system academics. The Advisor will work to develop a sustained robust extension and education program.

**RESEARCH**

The candidate would address key questions in areas such as the following: How do communities of color, namely Black and Latinx communities, increase community resiliency and build community wealth? What kinds of additional actions might be taken to increase community resiliency when it comes to educational disparities? What are the co-benefits of developing job and career pipelines and other efforts to increase community vitality? The candidate will need the skills and competencies to cross disparate research fields, such as economics and technology to address critical issues that ensure long-term community vitality.

**ANR NETWORK**

ANR Statewide Program, ANR Positive Youth Development Program Team, ANR Health Families and Communities Strategic Initiative, the Community Development Specialist at UC Davis and possibly, UC Berkeley and CSU San Francisco State.

**EXTERNAL NETWORK**

USDA /NIFA Community NGO(s), other UC and CSU institutes and academics, Los Angeles County Economic Development Council.

**SUPPORT**

The advisor will be provided with an office, telephone, high speed wireless internet access, storage space, office supplies, clerical, and administrative support.

**OTHER SUPPORT**

UC campuses, County Governments, NGOs and Foundations.

**HEADQUARTERS AND COVERAGE AREA**

Los Angeles County serving the Greater Los Angeles region including Orange County

**DEVELOPED AND PROPOSED BY**

Keith Nathaniel (UCCE LA County Director), Glenda Humiston (UCANR Vice President), Bill Allen (CEO Greater LA Economic Development Corporation), Darren Haver (UC ANR Director, South Coast REC)