

Weinfeld named director of Urban Policy Initiatives

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August 24, 2016

EAST LANSING, Mich. – Arnold Weinfeld has been appointed to lead Urban Policy Initiatives in Michigan State University’s Office for University Outreach and Engagement.

Weinfeld will serve as a university-community connector and boundary spanner, working with MSU faculty and external partners to develop partnerships that address critical community needs and societal issues.

“Occurrences in the recent past have led to heightened discussion of the serious issues facing our cities. Arnold Weinfeld’s experience will bring an added dimension to our ability to work collaboratively with community leaders and concerned citizens,” said Hiram E. Fitzgerald, associate provost for University Outreach and Engagement.

Weinfeld will be responsible for expanding community connections, identifying opportunities for community-based scholarly work, and developing educational and training experiences that bring about urban and systems change.

“With assets in place across our state, MSU possesses an energetic and dynamic approach to engaging university resources with community needs. I look forward to this opportunity for employing a collaborative approach to bring about systems change. We will utilize community knowledge and maximize engagement to keep our communities moving forward toward greater prosperity in the 21st century,” said Weinfeld.

Prior to joining UOE, Weinfeld served as the chief executive officer of Prima Civitas, a nonprofit organization founded by MSU in 2005 to serve as a catalyst between university resources and state economic development. President Lou Anna K. Simon envisioned and supported the Prima Civitas mission, and worked closely with Weinfeld and his predecessors to effectively address Michigan’s economic revitalization and growth.

Weinfeld served with the Michigan Municipal League (MML) as director of strategic initiatives, where he was responsible for the planning and development of new programs and outreach strategies to support place-based policy initiatives and programming for local officials across the state. He has worked as a

legislative aide, policy analyst, and policy director with the Michigan Legislature, and served eight years on the Waverly Community Schools Board of Education.

Weinfeld is a proud Spartan, and holds a bachelor of science degree from MSU's College of Social Science multi-disciplinary program.

More information is available at engage.msu.edu.

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The Office of University Outreach and Engagement facilitates university-wide efforts to create an ecosystem of engagement by supporting the engaged activities of faculty, staff, and students; fostering public access to university expertise and resources; and by advocating for exemplary engaged scholarship, nationally and internationally. In all of its work, UOE emphasizes university-community partnerships that are collaborative, participatory, empowering, systemic, transformative, and anchored in scholarship.