



For Immediate Release
2 November 2020

Contact: W. Cecil Steward, President & CEO
402.730.0890
Donna Woudenberg, Projects & Operations Manager
402.730.5996
Diane Wanek, Director of Communications
402.991.8747

Joslyn Institute CEO Cecil Steward to lead UN-Habitat World Urban Campaign's Steering Committee Constituency on Older Persons

W. Cecil Steward, the founder, president and CEO of the Joslyn Institute for Sustainable Communities (JISC) has been elected to chair the World Urban Campaign's Steering Committee Constituency on Older Persons.

"Older persons living in communities today that strive for community vitality and sustainability face barrier issues of access and services," Steward said. "These include areas of transportation, environmental mobility, social interactions, intellectual vitality and mental health, general health care, economic security, affordable housing, and food and nutrition. These are services and accommodations that should be available to every resident and stakeholder of any sustainable community."

However, he said, as people age, the availability, quality, and ease of access becomes ever more problematic for them.

"I will be working with a group of international representatives that will be interested in looking at Sustainable Development Goals, beginning at the twilight years of community life, then giving influence to overall community development policies, backwards in a sense, toward birth and regeneration," Steward said. "Perhaps in this manner the WUC could contribute more holistic, equitable, and secure public policies for integrated, equitable community sustainability."

The WUC Steering Committee has its first meeting on Tuesday, November 3, and will include such constituent groups as Women, Children, Professionals, Academia, Business & Industry, and Local and Sub-National Authorities, among others.

The Joslyn Institute was a founding partner of the World Urban Campaign (WUC) in 1999. The WUC has become an advocacy and partnership platform to raise awareness about positive urban change in order to achieve green, productive, safe, healthy, inclusive, and well planned cities. Its goal is to place the Urban Agenda at the highest level in development policies. It is coordinated by UN-Habitat and driven by a large number of committed partners—currently 210 partners and networks—from around the world. Its inception was a direct response to the need for partnerships between governments and civil society organizations, local authorities, the private sector, the research community, trade unions, parliamentarians, professional organizations, youth

– MORE –

and women groups, in order to achieve sustainable urban development. JISC has been a partner with UN–Habitat since 1996.

Steward said, “The UN–Habitat WUC is a valuable resource for global demonstration and guidance of community/city transformative plans and actions that will mitigate and respond to the contexts of climate change, public health pandemic, economic stresses, and social inequities, giving local residents, businesses and government actionable routes to livability and sustainable communities.”

Cecil Steward is Dean and Professor Emeritus of the College of Architecture, University of Nebraska, former national President of the American Institute of Architects (1991-1992), and national Topaz Distinguished Professor of Architecture, AIA/ACSA (1998), among other credentials and honors. He founded the Joslyn Institute for Sustainable Communities, which maintains offices in Lincoln and Omaha but which works globally, in 1996.

###