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Chair's Update by KP Williams

Those of us in academia know all too well the flurry and rush of preparing to start a new academic year. However, we also recognize and value the vital work of practitioners whose work does not follow the academic calendar. Similarly, the work of CDS by its members and leaders is an ongoing effort that requires collaboration, cooperation, and a renewed commitment to the CDS mission and Principles of Good Practice.

This summer included important work by CDS members and leadership. In addition to the successful conference, committees are revisiting and revising the CDS Principles of Good Practice, defining the rights and responsibilities that come with CDS membership, and expanding membership both generally as well as country and student chapters. Eric Trevan, Executive Leadership Fellow, continues working on behalf of the Society to increase membership, develop strategic initiatives, and identify opportunities for member engagement beyond the Annual International Conference.

As a reminder, the 2021 regular and special election is underway. You will receive official correspondence regarding the election from Anthony Cook, CDS Secretary and Nominations Committee Chair. Please also remember to mark your calendars for the 2021 Annual Business Meeting on **Wednesday, October 13, 2021, from 6:00-8:00 PM CDT**. An agenda and link to join the meeting will be available in next month's Vanguard.

In this edition, you can learn more about the 2021 Virtual Conference, recognize the 2021 CDS Awards recipients, and learn more about opportunities to expand the Membership and Retention Committee.



International Community Development Award



Two persons received the International Community Development Award: Diego Thompson from Mississippi State University and Dilip Patil of the Department of Lifelong Learning & Extension at the University of Mumbai. This award recognizes outstanding contributions to

community development in an international setting. This includes, but is not limited, to working with communities in countries other than the United States of America; working with people with an international background within the USA, such as engaging immigrant and refugee people; or undertaking research, teaching, or practice that contributes to international community development outcomes. Each of this year's winners approaches this work from a different perspective.

Diego has worked with immigrant groups in Iowa, Vermont, and Mississippi to build local, inclusive food systems, with attention to bringing in young people and increasing their skills and abilities not only as food producers but as active community participants in building a collective sustainable future. In Uruguay, he worked with four different communities undergoing climate and economic stresses to find sustainable participatory paths to a healthy ecosystem, social inclusion, and economic security.

Diego's efforts have documented the processes and impacts of collective agency and collective identity among marginalized groups, particularly immigrants and farmworkers. His research and community organizing work has a constant concern for social justice, achieved through recognizing and enhancing the assets of those most excluded within communities. He recognizes the importance of political capital and the state's role, working with communities to help them respond to and influence the policies that enhance and limit their opportunities to thrive collectively.

Meanwhile, for the past 40 years, Dilip's work has focused on the integral participation of various groups in the community in western India—tribal members, women, low socio-economic classes, and often left-out castes— in ways that incorporated the multiple interests in the community. By focusing on the issues of importance from the perspective of local communities and groups, his programs' rate of community participation has been very high. This meaningful participation has yielded clean and healthy villages. In addition, the introduction of electricity in tribal huts and the development of village roads (with the help of local self-government agencies) fostered easy communication with markets and larger communities and providing timely medical facilities in remote, interior hilly areas.

The building of community leadership capacity has threaded through Dilip's work, especially notable by organizing various leadership training camps with the help of NGOs and government agencies. Due to his work's awareness and capabilities built among the downtrodden communities, these communities have become more self-reliant, and most of these groups are now self-sustaining.