

Zachary Christian Kennedy

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EDUCATION

University of Illinois

Urbana-Champaign, IL

Ph.D. in Regional Planning

Expected May 2018

Master of Urban Planning - Economic Development Concentration

May 2009

Bachelor of Arts, Economics - Minors: Urban Planning & Business

May 2007

Parkland College

Champaign, IL

Associate of Science, Business Administration

Aug 2005

Graduation with Honors

WORK EXPERIENCE

University of Illinois Extension

Champaign, IL

Extension State Specialist, Community and Economic Development

July 2014-Present

- Provide program leadership and support for Extension Educators in community and economic development statewide.
- Develop curriculum, create and curate demographic and economic profile databases, and produce maps utilizing GIS for statewide Extension use.
- Establish new and leverage existing programmatic partnerships with University of Illinois departmental units as well as external partners throughout the state.

Extension Educator, Community and Economic Development

July 2011-July 2014

- Responsible for community and economic development programming in Champaign, Ford, Iroquois, and Vermilion Counties.
- Developed Data for Decision Makers program to train local government officials and heads of non-profits to utilize non-proprietary data in their work.
- Provide GIS mapping support for several Extension program areas.

Visiting Outreach Associate – Community Assessment and Development Services

Oct 2009-June 2011

- Created economic and/or demographic profiles for several counties and places throughout the state including Hancock, Mercer, Henderson, Adams, Alexander, Pulaski, and Johnson counties.
- Co-Authored or contributed to 9 comprehensive plans throughout the state including Village of Rochester, Village of Damiansville, Village of Ullin, Village of Mounds, Village of Pulaski, Alexander, Johnson, Pulaski, and Montgomery Counties.
- Co-Authored 4 FEMA approved hazard mitigation plans for Hancock, Henderson, Mercer, and Pike Counties
- Conducted research on the effects of chain retail establishments on local retail establishments in Illinois in partnership with the University of Illinois Springfield for the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.
- Supervised the work of 4 graduate assistants including the development of comprehensive plans for Montgomery County, Village of Damiansville, and Village of Rochester, IL.
- Provided technical assistance to Extension colleagues for data needs including but not limited to the creation of demographic and economic profiles.

Academic Hourly – Community Assessment and Development Services

June 2009-Oct 2009

- Created economic profiles for several counties in support of projects for the Great River Economic Development Foundation and the Southernmost Illinois Delta Empowerment Zone.
- Conducted research on historical natural hazard events in support of hazard mitigation plans in Hancock, Mercer, and Henderson counties.

Illinois ResourceNet

Champaign, IL

Technical Assistance Provider

February 2010-February 2011

- Provided technical assistance for Champaign County Administrative Services grant applications resulting in their being awarded \$81,000 for electric efficiency retrofits.
- Provided technical assistance for grant applications for John Wood Community College, Carl Sandburg College, and Parkland College
- Helped organize an organizational development and grant writing training with over 70 registrants from a wide range of non-profits throughout the state.

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Champaign County Regional Planning Commission

Urbana, IL

Planning Intern

February 2008-June 2009

- Completed updates for the County's Census Tract and Block Group Boundaries for the U.S. Census Bureau's Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP), and updates to the County's township boundaries for the Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS).
- Conducted research, recruited advisory group members, maintained contact with participating jurisdictions, prepared advertising materials, attended Steering Committee meetings, and drafted the text for the Champaign County Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Gathered data and compiled public input for the Champaign County Land Resource Management Plan.

University of Illinois, College of FAA, Department of Urban & Regional Planning

Urbana, IL

Teaching Assistant (2008-2009 Outstanding TA Award Recipient)

August 2008-May 2009

- Assisted in the instruction of Economics for Planners course.
- Assisted in the instruction of Urban & Regional Analysis course.

Graduate College Fellow

August 2007-May 2008

SELECTED VOLUNTEER WORK AND ACTIVITIES

Champaign County Local Foods Policy Council Chair

May 2012-Present

- Engaged in several activities to help assess and strengthen the local food system.

Master of Urban Planning Admissions Committee Member

December 2008-April 2008

- Reviewed Department of Urban & Regional Planning Master's program applicant materials and made recommendations regarding admissions and financial awards.

University of Illinois Campus Transportation Committee Member

August 2008-August 2009

- Served in an advisory body to Transportation Demand Management at Facilities & Services and the campus community on matters relating to Campus Transportation.

East Main Street Corridor Plan (Galesburg, Illinois) Co-Author

March 2008-May 2009

- Project received an American Planning Association Illinois Chapter Student Project Award.
- Took on the City of Galesburg as a client for Master's capstone project, along with three other students, to create a corridor plan along major arterial in the city.
- Created plan and recommendations through extensive process including steering committee meetings, existing conditions study, public input charrette, open house and survey, and will ultimately be bringing the plan before the Galesburg City Council for final approval.

South Central IL Land Use Evolution and Impact Assessment Model Charrette Facilitator

Mar-Apr 2007

- Facilitated and compiled data for six charrettes in Clay, Effingham, Fayette, Marion, and Jasper Counties aimed at gathering public input about drivers of land use change in the local communities for use in the LEAM model.

East St. Louis Action Research Project Outreach Weekend Volunteer

September 2006

- Helped organize a local thrift store.
- Created a resource pamphlet highlighting entertainment amenities in the city.

COMPUTER SKILLS

ESRI ArcGIS Applications

Adobe InDesign & Illustrator

Microsoft Office Applications

Google SketchUp

SPSS

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Planning Association

Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER)

Illinois Association of Community Development Extension Professionals

National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals