

Charles A. French

59 College Road
Durham, NH 03824

email: charlie.french@unh.edu

(603) 862-0316

Community and economic development leader, practitioner, and scholar with over twenty years of experience developing and implementing programs in the United States and abroad. Proven track-record growing staff capacity, generating resources, and building statewide partnerships. Areas of focus include regional economic development, business retention and expansion, tourism, regional planning, and community development.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Leadership — Strategic Planning — Conflict Resolution — Group Facilitation — Public Speaking — Grantsmanship — Project Management — Stakeholder Engagement — Program Evaluation — Public-Private Partnership — Qualitative Research — Economic Analysis — Research and Scholarship — Writing — Spanish Language.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Research Fellowship, Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development/Penn State University, 2019
- UNH Presidential Search Committee member, 2018
- Co-led University of New Hampshire's Innovation & Economic Prosperity (IEP) designation, APLU, 2017
- Regional Community Development Excellence Award, Nat. Assoc. of Comm. Dev. Professionals, 2017
- Leadership New Hampshire Inductee and Graduate, 2016
- National Teamwork Award for "Keep Growing", Nat. Assoc. of Comm. Dev. Professionals, 2013
- Key Note Address, Alberta Rural Development Network Conference, Edmonton, Alberta, 2011
- Maynard and Audrey Heckel Extension Educator Fellowship Award, 2007

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, 2008
University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH
Program: Natural Resources and Earth Systems Sciences

Master Arts, 1999
Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL
Program: Geography/Regional Planning

Bachelor of Arts, 1994
Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH
Major: Geography with a Certificate in Environmental Studies

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Program Leader, Community & Economic Development @ University of New Hampshire Extension 2012-Present

Launched Extension's Community & Economic Development Department in 2012. Duties include creating program vision, securing resources, recruiting staff, managing personnel, budgeting, and building stakeholder support.

- Secured over \$1,100,000 in grants over six years, to grow the Department from 2 staff to 13.
- Forged partnerships with county government to financially support new field staff in seven counties.
- Developed and implemented community engagement programs focused on growing local economies.
- Co-led UNH's Innovation & Economic Prosperity Universities (IEP) planning process, which received accreditation through the Association of Public Land Grant Universities (APLU).

Extension Assoc. Professor, Community Development @ University of New Hampshire Extension **2007-2012**

Served as Extension's lead community and economic development resource, delivered economic engagement programs to communities, conducted peer-reviewed scholarly work, and taught students in the classroom.

- Led an interdisciplinary team of Extension staff to develop and implement community-based programs across the state, including Business Retention & Expansion and Broadband Capacity-Building.
- Published peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, and field guides on diverse community development topics.
- Taught undergrad and graduate courses in community development and natural resource management.

Extension Assistant Professor, Community Development @ University of New Hampshire Extension **2001-2007**

Provided communities with Extension outreach programs focused on strengthening local economies and engaging the public in decision-making.

- Led the implementation of a statewide community visioning process in 26 communities across the state.
- Served as a faculty member in the Department of Resource Economics and taught introductory community development/planning to undergraduate students.
- Co-led a Ford Foundation-funded research project that examined the social and economic impacts of resident ownership of manufactured home parks.

Extension Educator, Economic Development @ University of Illinois Extension **1999-2001**

Served as lead community and economic development educator for regional Extension office.

- Provided towns outreach in the areas of land use and economic development.

Planning and Community Development Coordinator, Village of Ashland, Illinois **1998-1999**

Coordinated Ashland's Economic Development Committee and supported initiatives in the Mayor's office.

- Secured resources to revitalize Main Street, initiate a recycling program and respond to a tornado.

Peace Corps Volunteer, Environmental Education and Sustainable Agriculture, Panama **1994-1997**

Served as environmental education teacher-trainer and managed sustainable agriculture projects.

- Initiated an environmental education teacher-training program and helped develop a coffee co-op.

Cartographic Intern, National Geographic Society **1994**

Researched and helped compile maps for National Geographic feature stories.

BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND OTHER ROLES

- Conference Chair, National Association for Community Development Extension Professionals, 2019-2020
- Technical Working Group, Impact Evaluation, National Corporation for Community Service, 2018-2019
- Program Committee, Leadership New Hampshire, 2018 – current
- New Hampshire Rural Affairs Commission, University System of NH Representative, 2017 – current
- Faculty Fellow, Carsey School of Public Policy, 2012 – current
- Sustainable Harvest International, Board Member, 2009 – current
- Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development, Technical Adv. Committee, 2010 – 2016 (Chair 2016)
- Faculty Fellow, Office of Senior Vice Provost for Engagement & Academic Outreach, UNH, 2011 – 2012

SELECT GRANTS

- French, C. (PI). 2019. Rural innovation and resilience. NE Regional Center for Rural Development (\$17,554).
- French, C. (PI), Schloss, J. (Co-PI), & M. Paley (Co-PI). 2016. Wildlife Action Plan stakeholder engagement. New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (\$62,020).
- French, C. (PI), & M. Donovan (Co-PI). 2012-2013. New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority community planning grant: Building communities' capacity to engage stakeholders in policy development. US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development via NH Housing Finance Authority (\$41,300).
- French, C. (PI), Cullen, K. (Co-PI), & A. Manalo. (Co-PI). 2012-2014. Matching alternative markets with the New Hampshire commercial fishing industry's capacity. New Hampshire Sea Grant (\$80,000).
- French, C. (PI), & D. Foot. (Co-PI). 2010-2013. Building broadband capacity in New Hampshire. National Telecommunications and Information Administration (\$720,000).
- McDowell, W. (PI), & C. French. (Co-PI), Bucci, J. (Co-PI), Daley, M. (Co-PI), Hobbie, E. (Co-PI), & Miller S. (Co-PI). 2010-2013 Nitrogen sources and transport pathways: Science to management collaboration to reduce nitrogen loads in the Great Bay estuarine ecosystem. NOAA (\$599,514).

SELECT PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- French, C., & R. Romero-Perezgrovas. 2019. An international development organization's experience measuring program impacts with limited resources, in LaChapelle, P., Gutierrez-Montes, I., & Flora, C.B. (eds) *Building Community Capacity and Resilience through Rural Development: Perspectives from Latin America*. Routledge.
- Romero-Perezgrovas, R., French, C., Chazdon, S., & A. Mendoza. 2017. Sustainable Harvest International's work in two rural communities: Program participants' perceptions, in Chazdon, S., et. al. (eds) *Ripple Effects Mapping case studies*. University of Minnesota Press.
- French, C., & G. Morse. 2015. Extension stakeholder engagement: Adapting to the twenty-first century. *Journal of Human Sciences and Extension*, 3(2), pp. 108-131.
- French, C., Williams, J.E., Tang, J., Abrams, E., Townson, L., Sabin, M., Sandmen, L., & C. Wake. 2013. The UNH Engaged scholars Academy: Instilling in faculty principles of effective partnership. *Journal of Public Scholarship in Higher Education*. Vol. 3, pp. 19-42.
- French, C., & P. LaChapelle. 2012. Assessing intangible vs. tangible community visioning outcomes, in Walzer, N, Ed. 2012. *Community Visioning Programs*. Routledge.
- LaChapelle, P., Emery, M., & C. French. 2012. Community visioning pedagogy: A framework for teaching visioning to citizens and practitioners, in Walzer, N, Ed. 2012. *Community Visioning Programs*. Routledge.
- French, C., Becker, M., & B. Lindsay. 2011. Havana's changing urban agriculture land-scape: A shift to the right? *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems and Community Development*, 1(2), pp. 155-165.
- French, C., & M. Gagne. 2010. Ten years of community visioning in New Hampshire: The meaning of success. *Community Development*, 41(2), pp. 223-238.
- French, C., Giraud, K., & S. Ward. 2008. Building wealth through ownership: Resident-owned manufactured housing communities in New Hampshire. *Journal of Extension*, 46(2).

RECENT PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES

- French, C. 2019. Extension as a lead driver forging Land Grant economic development efforts. Nat. Assoc. of Comm. Development Extension Professionals Conference. Asheville, NC.
- Sero, R., French, C., & S. Chazdon. 2017. Social network analysis: A powerful tool for understanding community development efforts. Nat. Assoc. of Comm. Development Extension Professionals Conference. Big Sky, MT.
- French, C. 2016. Entrepreneurship and community redesign. Wildcatalyst Seminar, UNHInnovation.