



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SMART GROWTH PARTNERSHIP PRESENTS
EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIUM**

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL (March 26, 2013) – **Smart Growth Partnership**, a Broward-based nonprofit organization dedicated to advocacy and education to promote livable, sustainable and green communities in South Florida, will present their **2013 Educational Symposium** on Thursday, April 4, 2013 at Nova Southeastern University. The event is co-sponsored by the university and the Broward County Health Department.

The Educational Symposium will address the financial struggles South Florida cities face when trying to develop healthy environments for the populace. The event will also provide tangible examples from successful smart growth cities and practical advice on how cities can redevelop in a fiscally self sufficient manner while also remaining healthy, safe and affordable. The symposium will address urban revitalization and real estate, also touching upon transportation, health, and environmental components that foster healthy, sustainable communities.

The keynote speakers for the event are Tom Murphy and Dr. Paula Thaqi. Murphy is the former mayor of Pittsburgh and Urban Land Institute senior resident fellow. He specializes in public policy, retail/urban entertainment, transportation/infrastructure, housing, real estate finance and environmental issues. He has experience in urban revitalization including what drives investment. Murphy will speak about what he accomplished with the help of public-private partnerships and provide advice on how to develop a long range plan that addresses redevelopment and future growth and transportation issues.

Dr. Thaqui has been the director of the Broward County Health Department since April 2008 and has increased and strengthened partnerships to leverage resources in Broward County. She will speak about health issues in Florida and how planning decisions, transportation decisions and even affordable housing decisions all impact community health.

Gloria Katz, president of Smart Growth Partnership, advocates for the use of the comprehensive smart growth approach to community development that will be addressed during the event as a means for cities and individuals to make the most of their budgets by reducing costs. She said, "Smart growth strategies benefit city budgets by reducing costs for infrastructure and maintenance. The strategies can also decrease household budgets by nearly 50 percent by reducing the combined costs of transportation and housing. By creating walkable downtowns and more public transit options, plus affordable housing, Smart Growth strategies will help cities attract and retain talented workers."

The Educational Symposium is part of a series of annual yearly lectures hosted by Smart Growth Partnership that feature national speakers explaining how smart growth principles (see <http://bit.ly/UYU4B1>) and concepts have been successfully adopted in cities across the nation.

Event Information

WHAT: Smart Growth Partnership Educational Symposium

WHEN: Thursday, April 4, 2013 | 8:30am till 11:30am

COST: \$25 registration fee | Registration begins at 7:30am

WHERE: Nova Southeastern University
Carl De Santis Bldg Atrium & Knight Auditorium
3301 College Avenue
Davie, FL 33314

RSVP: Media invited as guests of SGP. Contact Jenifer Mangione Vogt at 561-961-9136.

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Smart Growth Partnership, Inc. is a collaborative of diverse professionals and organizations providing leadership, advocacy, and education to promote livable and sustainable and green communities. To that end, the partnership, which was founded in 2005, supports the principles of Smart Growth for the south Florida region. In 2013, Smart Growth Partnership received federal and state grants that will allow them to bring technical assistance to Broward cities and to identify where city policies are lacking in order to help them realize the goal of becoming

healthy, safe and accessible. For more information, and to read the Smart Growth Principles, visit their website at www.smartgrowthpartnership.org