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## **Universities to Collaborate with Support of State** *Michigan's Cool Cities to Host Student Interns*

LANSING – College students now have a chance to explore the unique opportunities of Michigan's coolest cities through a new initiative hosted by the State. The Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) has integrated an internship and fellowship program into its Cool Cities initiative, in partnership with Michigan State University, University of Michigan, Wayne State University and the Michigan Suburbs Alliance.

“The Cool Cities Internship Program will catalyze relationships between the university community and neighborhoods to get the word out about the exciting things happening in Michigan,” said Brittany Galisdorfer, the Suburbs Alliance’s program director. “Engaging students in our Cool Cities will provide enthusiastic, on-the-ground support, all while showing young people that they can play a role in this transformational time in our state.”

Since 2003, the Cool Cities program has worked to revitalize neighborhoods, build community identity and retain knowledge workers. Plans are underway to further manifest the cultural ethos of the Cool Cities with a mix of internships, fellowships, workshops, networking and collaboration opportunities for young people. The result? A dynamic learning environment that cultivates students’ personal and professional development while building a climate of creativity, innovation and excellence in Michigan’s Cool Cities.

MSHDA provided each of Michigan’s three leading research universities monies to manage student positions, and it funded the Suburbs Alliance to direct the day-to-day administration of the program. Beginning this winter, students will be able to apply for positions. Fellows will begin work in March, preparing to lead and mentor interns, who will in turn come on board in May. Once enrolled, students will conduct research focusing on the Cool Cities’ successes and the role community-based work plays in attracting and retaining young people. This research will be shared via traditional media and new social media in order to better market the Cool Cities. Students will collaborate to enhance their success, teasing out common issues across communities and strategizing together to suggest solutions.

Those interested in hosting a student, applying to the program or simply learning more should contact Ms. Galisdorfer at (248) 546-2380 or [brittany@suburbsalliance.org](mailto:brittany@suburbsalliance.org).