

The Talloires Network and [The MasterCard Foundation](#) are pleased to announce a new \$5.9 million initiative that will build upon and extend the promising efforts of Talloires Network member institutions to prepare their students to access and create jobs in developing economies.

The MasterCard Foundation is an independent, private foundation based in Toronto, Canada, established through the generosity of MasterCard Worldwide at the time of the company's initial public offering in 2006. The foundation advances microfinance and youth learning to promote financial inclusion and prosperity. Through collaboration with committed partners in 48 countries, the Foundation is helping people living in poverty to access opportunities to learn and prosper.

The Talloires Network is thrilled to be working with The MasterCard Foundation to implement the Youth Economic Participation Initiative. This new initiative will enable the Network to award a small number of three-year Demonstration Grants to Talloires Network universities in developing countries and their community, public or private sector partners. A total of six to eight Demonstration Grants will be awarded to universities across the global south.

Competitive programs will be innovative, effective and collaborative efforts that draw on the expertise and person power of engaged universities and their civic engagement programs to address the youth unemployment crisis. YEPI will enable the most exemplary of these programs to strengthen their work and expand the scope of their efforts to engage a greater number of students and employers. We expect that this will result in higher, more sustainable youth participation in the economy and greater ties between universities and economies.

Program evaluation, learning, and the sharing of knowledge are a fundamental part of the YEPI. The Talloires Network will support demonstration grant programs in evaluating and learning from their efforts, and will encourage the exchange of knowledge on this topic through the creation of a global Community of Practice. Look out for exciting new opportunities and online resources in 2013.

It is important to note that the Youth Economic Participation Initiative (YEPI) represents the culmination of a year-long planning effort that could not have happened without your help. Planning efforts included extensive consultation with universities, scholars, youth, and prominent leaders in the fields of university engagement and youth economic development around the world.

The Network would particularly like to thank the members of the YEPI Advisory Committee that convened under the leadership of Shamsh Kassim-Lakha to provide direction and strategic advice for the development of the initiative. Please join us to extending thanks to Mr. Kassim-Lakha and the distinguished members of the Advisory Committee for their time, expertise, and essential contributions to the design of this initiative:

- Ahmed Bawa, Vice-Chancellor, Durban University of Technology, South Africa
- Bohdan Krawchenko, Director General, University of Central Asia, Kyrgyz Republic
- Salvador Medina, Executive Vice-President, Santander Bank, Spain
- William Reese, President and CEO, International Youth Foundation, United States

- Juan Antonio Rock, Professor and Former Rector, Universidad de Talca, Chile
- Sharifah Shahabudin, Vice-Chancellor, Universiti Kebangsaan, Malaysia
- Sally Susnowitz, Director of the MIT Public Service Center, United States
- Rajesh Tandon, President, Society for Participatory Research in Asia, India
- Ismail Alaoui, Youth Representative of Education for Employment, Morocco
- Soledad La Fico Guzzo, 2011 MacJannet Prize Winner, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Butho Ndhlovu, 2011 MacJannet Prize Winner, University of Venda, South Africa

Also key in helping to shape this initiative were members of the online learning community that formed as a pre-cursor to the upcoming Community of Practice. This series of online discussions, which took place over five weeks in fall of 2011, drew together an extraordinary group of engaged scholars who are working at the nexus of higher education and youth economic participation around the world. Our heartfelt thanks go to the following individuals for their enthusiastic participation:

- Alda Roxana Cardenas, Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico
- Tommy Cooke, Dublin Institute of Technology, Ireland
- Joseph Francis, University of Venda, South Africa
- Syed Mohsin Jalil, National University of Sciences & Technology, Pakistan
- Aurelia Kamuzora, Mzumbe University, Tanzania
- Clíona Maher, Universidad Veracruzana, Mexico
- Heba Nassar, Cairo University, Egypt
- Sharon Prado, University College Dublin, Ireland
- Rebecca Prokity, Bridgemont Community and Technical College, West Virginia, United States
- Aplen Sheth, Interuniversity Institute for Research and Development, Haiti

We greatly look forward to your involvement in the next stages of the Youth Economic Participation Initiative. There will be many ways to get involved, either as an applicant for the demonstration grant awards, or through the Community of Practice. To share your thoughts, suggestions and questions, or to sign up for a quarterly email update on the YEPI, please contact YEPI Director Jennifer Catalano at jennifer.catalano@tufts.edu.

Please watch your inboxes for a Request for Proposals in October 2012. Initial Expressions of Interest will be due in November 2012 and finalist universities will be invited to submit full proposals in March 2013. Grants awards will be announced in June 2013.