2012/13 Community and Economic Vitality Award Winner: Dr. Mildred Warner

The Community and Regional Development Institute’s 2012/13 David J. Allee and Paul R. Eberts Community and Economic Vitality Award will be presented on Monday, February 11th, 2013 to Mildred Warner, Professor in the Department of City and Regional Planning at Cornell University, for her years of innovative research on issues impacting families, communities and regions. The award will be given at CaRDI’s Research Roundtable Seminar on “Planning Across Generations,” to be held at Cornell University on February 11th from 12:00-2:00. Panelists will include Professor Warner, Ruth Finkelstein (Senior Vice President for Policy and Planning, The New York Academy of Medicine), and Dana E. Friedman (Founder and President, The Early Years Institute).

Mildred Warner is a Professor of City and Regional Planning where her work focused on privatization, economic development and new models of service delivery. She has published over 65 articles in top journals and received grants from numerous foundations and US government agencies for her research. Her research is characterized by strong collaborations with local government associations which ensure its policy relevance. For more information on her research projects see http://www.mildredwarner.org.

Dr. Warner was CaRDI’s first Associate Director in 1990, at a time when she was developing a strong collaborative and collegial connection with the two namesakes of the award, Dr. Paul Eberts and Dr. David Allee. The Community and Economic Vitality Award honors Cornell University and Cornell Cooperative Extension colleagues, recognizing research and outreach that develops innovative solutions to community issues. Dr. Warner’s engaged scholarship – linking research and extension to solve important community development issues - is exactly what Dr. Paul Eberts and Dr. David Allee focused on in their careers.

David Pelletier, Associate Professor of Nutrition Policy at Cornell, says “I can think of no one more deserving of this award than Dr. Warner. For more than ten years she has conducted an innovative and integrated program of research and extension on the links between economic development and child care, involving productive collaborations with partners at local, state and national levels. Her cutting-edge research has challenged prevailing understandings and led to innovative new approaches by local governments and practitioners. Such engaged scholarship is an important element of Cornell’s legacy and central to Cornell’s aspiration to become a land-grant university to the world.”
John Sipple, Professor of Education and Co-Director of CaRDI, states "Professor Warner is a tremendous example of an engaged scholar and represents the type of work that CaRDI values. Her work focuses on real world policy questions, engages local leaders in the design of her work, is rooted in scholarly methods, and offers practical applications and lessons for the public. CaRDI is thrilled to honor Professor Warner and her work."

David Brown, Chair of Development Sociology and Co-Director of CaRDI, says “Mildred Warner is one of the nation’s leading authorities on community governance and how governance affects development possibilities of urban and rural communities across the US and Western Europe. Her research and outreach programs have focused on such diverse issues as devolution and privatization, day care as an aspect of community economic development, and intergenerational competition over community services delivery. Her work contributes to social science and provides an invaluable basis for informed decision making at national, state, regional and local levels.”

For more information on the award presentation and roundtable seminar, please contact Susan Barry Smith at st237@cornell.edu.