

WHY I ULI

Our work is made possible by our member-volunteers who generously contribute their time and talent to create impact.

Why I ULI shares your stories of member leadership.

Patrice Callahan: UrbanPlan Teacher

[Learn more about UrbanPlan](#)

Social Studies Teacher: Economics, Environmental Studies and Urban Geography

School of Environmental Studies in Apple Valley

Tell us about yourself

I have traveled to many incredible places, but I am also happy to be a fifth-generation Minnesotan and I know I will always call this place home. In 2012, I traveled around Japan as part of the Fulbright Japan-United States Teacher Exchange program for the Education for Sustainable Development. I had homestays in multiple cities across Japan. I quickly learned a universal adage from my Japanese family hosts. When comparing their ways of doing things to ours, they would often say "same, same, but different." It is a quick way of summarizing how much people have in common even across cultures and places that seem very different. This view has stuck with me, and I share it with my students as we explore various communities, locally and beyond.



I love my job teaching economics, environmental studies and urban geography to senior high school students at the public School of Environmental Studies in Apple Valley, MN. This unique, interdisciplinary and project-based school provides real world opportunities for students to experience "same, same, but different" moments.

These experiences enhance the education, development and understanding of our students and are at the core of educating global citizens.

I lead field studies for 11th and 12th grade students, including trips to Alaska, Australia, California, Ecuador (including the Amazon and Galapagos Islands), Honduras, Mexico, Minnesota and New York City. I enjoy exploring cities with students, helping them develop the skills to navigate their own path. From gingerly walking the isolated bunker-town of Whittier, Alaska to pushing through the bustling crowds of New York City, students look for what is the same and what is different, and how to derive meaning from what they see. They think about transportation in a new light when they compare trams, trains, and buses in Melbourne, Australia to walking miles in Quito, Ecuador. One student walking down 5th Avenue in New York said, "I feel like such a small fish in a big sea," but within a few days she was confidently navigating her way to the United Nations Headquarters and to various destinations across the city.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I love spending time with our 5 grandchildren. In March, we traveled to Colorado for a ski trip over spring break and I had fun keeping up with the grandkids on the slopes!

What are your biggest challenges as a teacher? How do you overcome them?

The biggest challenge is to stay current and not repeat a lesson or activity because it worked well in the past. Every graduating class has its own experiences, needs and capabilities while facing a constantly changing world, so it is essential to continually create meaningful project-based curricula.

Currently, our students are analyzing Twin Cities suburban developments, including the Heart of the City in Burnsville, MN (a nationally recognized Smart Growth America development). I love to see the "aha" moment hit them as they arrive at a deeper understanding of the interplay between recreation, housing, retail, office space and transportation in this suburban community. They look at the same neighborhood, but now see it differently.

Tell us about your experience with UrbanPlan and why you brought it to SES.

We were introduced to UrbanPlan by SES alumna Nicole Mardell. We traveled together on a trip to Mexico in 2010 as official delegates to the International Conference on Climate Change, and she subsequently attended the University of Minnesota where worked with UrbanPlan. She recognized the perfect fit for SES and connected us with the great folks at ULI MN. Aubrey Albrecht at ULI MN joined Nicole to come out and meet with us to create a program that could accommodate our class of 100 students. Our students and teachers are the biggest spokespersons for the program. The most impactful part of UrbanPlan for our students is the opportunity to interact with professionals, empowering the students to dig deep and be accountable for learning essential urban development and economic realities.

We have aligned UrbanPlan to coincide with our Sustainable Studies curriculum unit. Our three-hour block class schedule provides students the ideal time and opportunity to travel to and investigate urban spaces. It is so amazing for students to participate in a simulated redevelopment project before visiting actual local redevelopment sites. Students apply UrbanPlan concepts to better understand the components of real estate development within the urban landscape while considering how these elements shape the community.

UrbanPlan guides students to recognize the interconnections of transportation networks, buildings, greenspace and economics within the urban system. Hurray for the struggling, idealistic student who ultimately realizes the need for essential development components such as parking lots! This leads to a more sophisticated understanding of the development requirements and choices that surround us.

LIGHTNING ROUND QUESTIONS

Make a recommendation.

Kayak the Minnehaha River from Lake Minnetonka to Minnehaha Falls as it winds through the Twin Cities.

Give us one fact about yourself most people don't know.

I spent more nights in a tent last summer than in my own bed. This included a trip where I kayaked class III rapids going backwards.

Finish this sentence however you like. "I wish I could..."

Create and build an environmental learning center that highlights sustainable food production in addition to outdoor adventure learning.

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS ULI MINNESOTA?

Mayor Mike Maguire makes the case for housing as an economic imperative

As part of the release of GREATER MSP's [2018 Regional Indicators Dashboard](#), Regional Council of Mayors Executive Committee member and Mayor of Eagan, Mike Maguire, appeared in a video to make the case for the critical importance of addressing housing affordability for the economic competitiveness of the MSP region.

[2018 MSP Regional Indicators Dashboard video](#)

Mayor Maguire has also been representing the RCM as an ex-officio member of the Governor's Task Force on Housing with support from ULI Minnesota's Cathy Bennett. The task force is charged with evaluating existing housing strategies and developing innovative new solutions to secure Minnesota's housing future. With two meetings remaining, the task force anticipates delivering its findings and recommendations soon. Learn more and share your thoughts on the ideas that have been generated so far at the link below.

[Governor's Task Force on Housing](#)

Advisory Services are making an impact across the region

NAVIGATING YOUR COMPETITIVE FUTURE (NCF)

<i>Crystal</i>	<i>February 8</i>
<i>Chaska</i>	<i>February 28</i>
<i>Scott County Association for Leadership and Efficiency (SCALE)</i>	<i>March 9</i>
<i>East Central Regional Development Commission</i>	<i>April 6</i>
<i>Le Sueur</i>	<i>April 23</i>
<i>Wyoming</i>	<i>May 16</i>
<i>Burnsville</i>	<i>June 13</i>
<i>Brooklyn Center</i>	<i>September 24</i>
<i>Eden Prairie</i>	<i>October 16</i>

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PANELS (TAPs)

<i>ULI Global Advisory Services Panel in Rondo (PRESENTATION)</i>	<i>March 19-23</i>
<i>MetroTransit TOD Office</i>	<i>June 28</i>
<i>Golden Valley</i>	<i>July 19</i>
<i>Bottineau LRT Corridor</i>	<i>September 17-19</i>

[Learn more about Advisory Services](#)

ULI MN Director David Baur is moving on

After more than two years with ULI Minnesota, David Baur is leaving at the end of May. Please join us in thanking him for his contributions and wishing him the best of luck in the future.

David's work has often taken place behind the scenes, but his impact is seen across our organization. In his time with ULI MN, he has been instrumental in:

- Writing and designing [key strategic planning documents](#) and [Chapter 2](#) of our brochure
- Updating our [Navigating Your Competitive Future presentation](#)
- [Writing Technical Assistance Panel reports](#) for cities and public agencies
- Developing informative content on [important issues](#)
- Systems thinking, including the implementation of our OneDrive shared cloud document storage solution



- And generally updating and modernizing the design and content of our website and collateral materials as well as streamlining some of our internal processes.

With an eclectic career background, David is taking time to be thoughtful about his next move and has been meeting with professionals across a range of industries to look for the right fit. He is available for freelance work for anyone that needs help with strategic planning, process improvement, writing, editing, document design, or data analysis and reporting.

In the meantime, you can find David out and about in south Minneapolis with his wife, Holly, and daughter, Olivia, who smiles pretty much all the time.

If you'd like to connect with David, check him out on [LinkedIn](#) or [send him an email](#).

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The mission of the Urban Land Institute is to provide leadership in the responsible use of land and in creating and sustaining thriving communities worldwide.