If your community needs a fresh start or a shot in the arm to come together and move forward, you are in luck. The Community Development Institute (CDI) at the University of Central Arkansas is offering an Advanced Year experience for community development professionals in Arkansas and surrounding states, and it will take place in one Arkansas community. That community could be yours!

A team of CDI graduates will spend a day conducting an online assessment of the community, and a second day in the community interacting with citizens and community leaders, culminating with a community stakeholder meeting to address the most pressing issues and opportunities.

The team will use the Breakthrough Solutions Model from the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, led by Mark Peterson, Professor of Community and Economic Development. The purpose of Breakthrough Solutions is to inspire and equip communities and regions to become vibrant, sustainable, and resilient in the 21st century economy. Breakthrough Solutions is an initiative that involves resources from several partner organizations.

The new Breakthrough Solutions process is an effective way to move a community into action and is based on the premise that:

- citizens and community leaders can really make a difference in their communities, and it starts by seeing their community in new ways,
- communities that come together and take action will be the ones that will survive and prosper, and that those that do not will fade away.

To Community Leaders:

What Your Community Could Expect from Participating:

- A fresh look at their community – challenges and asset-based opportunities, from several perspectives by community and economic development professionals,
- A prioritization of key issues and opportunities for their community,
- The opportunity to receive follow-up technical assistance from CDI and Breakthrough Solutions
- A full scholarship for one member of the community to attend the 2015 Community Development Institute and Breakthrough Solutions Conference

Timeline and Next Steps:

- May 31, 2014- Application deadline for communities to apply
- June 15, 2014- Selection of community for Advanced Year CDI
- August 4-6, 2014- CDI Team in the community

If You Have Questions, Contact:

Amy Whitehead, UCA Community Development Institute
501-852-2930, amyw@uca.edu

Mark Peterson, U of A Division of Agriculture
501-671-2253, mpeterson@uaex.edu