

## Agenda Item Summary

**To:** Executive Committee

**From:** Matt Hart, Executive Director

**CC:** P. Yoder, Chief Operating Officer; K. Bishop, Economic Development Coordinator

**Meeting Date:** November 6, 2024

**Subject:** Establishment of UConn Fellowship in Honor of Dr. Lyle Wray

### **Background:**

We have previously discussed the idea of establishing a fellowship at the UConn School of Public Policy (SPP) in honor of our Executive Director emeritus, Dr. Lyle Wray. Lyle had a close working relationship with the faculty and staff at the SPP.

We have reached out to the SPP and the UConn Foundation to discuss how to establish and structure the fellowship. The best approach would be to fund the endowment via the CRCOG Foundation, and then to issue an annual appeal for contributions. UConn could coordinate the annual appeal, as it does for its other fellowships and scholarships.

I suggest that the SPP award the fellowship to a student with an interest in regional planning or government. The SPP could come up with more specific criteria on which to base the award.

### **Benefit to Member Towns/CRCOG:**

The fellowship would serve to honor Lyle's legacy and promote student interest in the field of regional planning and government.

### **Financial/Operational Impact:**

The CRCOG Foundation has limited assets to fund an endowment. Consequently, staff suggests that we use interest income as a funding source. We could readily make a contribution from CRCOG's interest income in the amount of \$75,000, which would be sufficient to support an annual fellowship of \$5,000.

If the Board were to approve this process, the funds for the endowment would flow from CRCOG, to the CRCOG Foundation, and then to the UConn Foundation.

### **Recommendation:**

I am seeking the Executive Committee's feedback and support on this proposal before bringing it to the full Policy Board for consideration.