

## Benefits of Just Connections Membership

Just Connections encourages community members, colleges and universities, educators and students to join as members. Through this supportive network, members strive for equitable participation in working democratically to create socially just and sustainable communities.

### Membership Application Form

Types of Annual Membership	Price
<input type="checkbox"/> Institutional	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Faculty/Staff	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Organization	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Individual**	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Student**	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> Contribution	\$



Subtotal: \_\_\_\_\_  
Total: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Scholarships may be available.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliated Community Organization or Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please Make Checks Payable to:

**Just Connections**

Send to:  
Billy Newton  
Center for Strong Communities  
Maryville College  
502 E. Lamar Alexander Parkway, Maryville, TN 37804

## Board of Directors

Susan Ambler  
*Maryville College,  
Maryville, TN*

Robin Fife  
*Tusculum College  
Greeneville, TN*

Robert Donnan  
*Big Creek People in Action  
Caretta, WV*

Ricardo Garcia  
*Grassroots Empowerment Alliance of Rome  
Rome, GA*

Billy Newton  
*Center for Strong Communities at Maryville College  
Maryville, TN*

Marie Cirillo  
*Clearfork Community Institute  
Eagan, TN*

Janice Morrissey  
*Grassroots Empowerment Alliance of Rome  
Rome, GA*



# Just Connections

*A Network of  
Communities and Colleges  
Promoting Socially Just and  
Sustainable Communities*

## Membership Information

For more information go to:

[www.justconnections.info](http://www.justconnections.info)

or

Contact Robin Fife: [rfife@tusculum.edu](mailto:rfife@tusculum.edu)  
(423) 552-0178

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## History

Just Connections became a reality in 1998 when a group of community and college people in Appalachia came together to work toward realizing their vision of providing community residents with equitable access to resources and knowledge. In December of 2000, JC incorporated and formed a board of directors.

The work of Just Connections is to create linkages and partnerships between colleges and communities to develop participatory learning and action opportunities, including service-learning and participatory Community-Based Research projects. We use collaborative and democratic processes as a means to solve community problems, reduce inequality, and promote social justice. Just Connections strives for equitable participation among the residents and scholars involved in projects.

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## Board Meetings

Board meetings are held quarterly, generally in the months of March, June, August and October at various campuses or communities which participate in Just Connections. All members are invited to attend board meetings and are encouraged to participate in committees.

## Purpose and Goals

Just Connections is committed to community based education as a process that places researchers and students at the service of communities seeking help with

- identifying local assets, needs, and opportunities
- planning, implementing, and/or evaluating community-driven programs
- raising funds and other resources to realize community goals.

This research model emphasizes that the core knowledge about community problems resides in the community itself. Thus community members are the most qualified to bring meaning to researching those problems. Our approach to community based education emphasizes an equal partnership between campus and community to develop socially just and sustainable communities.

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## Organizational Committees

Executive Committee  
Finance and Capacity-Building Committee  
Assessment and Evaluation Committee  
Membership Committee

## Program Committees

Conference Committee  
Website Committee  
Participatory Research Across the Curriculum (PRAC) Project Committee  
Vision in Action Committee (VIA)

## Members will have access to the following:

**Biennial Conferences** which focus on examining models of participatory learning, sharing research on community based education, linking communities and colleges, and creating opportunities to further develop sustainable and socially just communities. (Reduced registration fees for members are available).

**Community Based Education Opportunities** have in the past been supported by collaborative grant projects.

**Just Connections Listserv, Website & Support Materials** provide important venues of communication for members and others who are interested in community based education.

**Peer Reviewed Publication & Conference Presentation Opportunities** to share knowledge and experiences in the field of Community-Based Research and education in nationally recognized venues.

**Networking** with experienced community based education practitioners and groups working together for democratic social change in Appalachia.

**Professional & Organizational Development** through sharing of models and ideas supported by the benefits listed above.

**Student Research Opportunities** combining academic experience with summer internships, service-learning projects, and other varieties of Community-Based Research.

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