

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Saturday, Aug. 23, 2014

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**WHITE HOUSE CLIMATE TASK FORCE MEMBER PAULA BROOKS TO CONDUCT
“RESILIENCE ROUNDTABLE” VISIT MONDAY IN YOUNGSTOWN**

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Franklin County Commissioner [Paula Brooks](#), Ohio’s appointee to the bipartisan [White House Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience](#), will make a stop in Youngstown Monday for the fourth of her “Resilience Roundtable” outreach visits. The commissioner will be seeking input and recommendations for increasing Northeast Ohio communities’ resilience in the face of climate impacts.

Commissioner Brooks will convene resilience and sustainability experts at Youngstown State University for a panel discussion on the impacts of increasingly frequent, severe weather events. She is especially interested in hearing about new innovations that are helping Ohio’s old “Rust Belt” prepare, adapt and become more resilient in the 21st century.

“Different cities and regions across Ohio have their own unique challenges, and with those, their own unique ideas and innovations to address climate impacts,” Commissioner Brooks said. “I look forward to reconnecting with my roots in Mahoning County, and being briefed on the efforts already underway to ensure this vital region’s resilience for the sake our future generations. I also look forward to ideas about blending economic and environmental resilience together.”

The commissioner will learn about YSU’s sustainability initiatives starting at 3:30 p.m. Commissioner Brooks, a YSU alumna, will view the university’s 4,100-square-foot solar photovoltaic array on the roof of Moser Hall and visit LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold-certified Williamson Hall, home of the college of business.

Afterwards, she will be hosted by Dean Martin Abraham of the YSU College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics for a “Resilience Roundtable.” The roundtable, which will get underway at 4:30 p.m. in the Ohio Room of YSU’s Kilcawley Center, will feature presentations from faculty in the Geography, Economics and Environmental Sciences departments.

Monday’s “Resilience Roundtable” will mirror successful outreach visits the commissioner has already conducted in Cleveland, Cincinnati and Toledo.

FULL AGENDA (Events open to the press)

Monday, Aug. 25, 2015

3:30 pm. YOUNGSTOWN STATE SUSTAINABILITY TOUR

Moser and Williamson Halls (One University Plaza, Youngstown, Ohio, 44555)

4:30 p.m. ROUNDTABLE ON RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE IMPACTS, presented by Youngstown State University

Kilcawley Center, Ohio Room (One University Plaza, Youngstown, Ohio, 44555)

Moderator: Dean Martin Abraham, YSU College of Science, Technology and Mathematics

Youngstown State University Faculty Panelists:

Dawna Cerney, Associate Professor and Chair, *Dept. of Geography*

A.J. Sumell, Associate Professor, *Dept. of Economics*

Felicia Armstrong, Associate Professor, *Dept. of Geological and Environmental Sciences*

Media may contact Commissioner Brooks' staffers Brook Kohn, Policy Manager, at (614) 323-1940, or Bart Logan, Community Relations Manager, at (614) 634-0602 for more information about the events.

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