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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Urban Appalachian Community Coalition Sponsors National Appalachian Studies Conference in Downtown Cincinnati

CINCINNATI, OHIO, JUNE 22, 2017— In April 2018, the Urban Appalachian Community Coalition will host the **41st Annual Appalachian Studies Association Annual Conference**, which draws more than 1,000 regional, national, and international leaders, scholars, educators, service providers, activists, advocates, and artists. For the first time in its history, the conference will be sponsored by a community-based organization rather than an academic institution. The **2018 conference theme will focus on “Restitching the Seams: Appalachia Beyond Its Borders,”** inviting participants to address the issues that affect Appalachians both inside and outside the region, with a particular emphasis on Diversity and Inclusion, Economic Sustainability, Education, Environmental Sustainability, Health, and Migration. **The conference will be held April 5-8, 2018 in downtown Cincinnati at the Millennium and Hyatt Hotels.** Conference-related activities at various locations in downtown and Over the Rhine will provide participants the opportunity to explore the ever-evolving story of Cincinnati’s Appalachian community. Activities include:

- over 200 sessions of conference presentations
- exhibit room with organization and publisher displays and a silent auction
- evening music, literature and dance performances in downtown and Over-the-Rhine, including an Urban Appalachian Showcase at the Aronoff Center on Saturday, April 7, 2018.

Conference Chair Debbie Zorn is the former Director of University of Cincinnati’s Evaluation Services Center and past President of the Appalachian Studies Association. She says of the Conference, “We hope to stitch together the diverse voices and minds of the Appalachian community to provide a richly textured and colorful fabric of ideas, plans, workable solutions, and support as we move forward in the 21st century.”

For Conference updates and information on how to be involved as a presenter, sponsor or volunteer, visit <http://uacvoice.org/2018-appalachian-studies-association-conference/>.

The Urban Appalachian Community Coalition is an alliance of individuals and organizations committed to the well-being of Appalachian people, communities and cultural expression in the greater Cincinnati area, providing an organizational structure through which urban Appalachians can build mutual support, promote awareness of urban Appalachian people’s contributions, and take action to address common concerns.

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