

Beloit College to meet with city for conference

By SOPHIE HARRIS Staff writer | Posted: Wednesday, September 9, 2015 4:00 pm

BELOIT — For the first time ever, officials from Beloit College and the City of Beloit will meet to discuss the ways they work together.

Director of Marketing and Communications at Beloit College Jason Hughes said the meeting will be somewhat of a celebration. "The College and City: Sharing a Name, Sharing a Future" will take place from 3 - 5 p.m. Sept. 18 in Richardson Auditorium at Beloit College. Hughes said the meeting is the first of its kind.

"The idea grew from a meeting I attended last year with the director of the Downtown Beloit Association, Shauna El-Amin," Hughes said. "Our city and college work really well together. This is sort of a pep talk, and we really want to continue with open dialogue."

Hughes said the invite list was initially very large, and they want businesses, boards and interested parties around the city to attend to share thoughts and ideas.

"It's also homecoming weekend, so we are inviting Beloit College alumni," Hughes said. "I think what we're trying to do is talk about things that are happening. We want local business leaders present to talk about what's been going on at their business, and any other new things happening."

Hughes said the event will aim for people to engage in discussion about how Beloit helps them achieve their long-term goals and what they want to do next. Planned discussion topics include upcoming city projects and meaningful changes to the community.

"We want to educate the community and inspire future collaborations," Hughes said.

The biggest challenge so far?

"We're having a really hard time keeping it short," Hughes said. "It's a really fantastic time to be in Beloit. There are collective efforts in play right now, and we are so excited to share this with our alums. People will look around the room and know each other, and it's really worth celebrating."

The program will include presentations by Beloit College and city representatives alongside MacArthur Fellow Jeanne Gang. Beloit College is hosting the event with partners from the City of Beloit, Beloit 2020, the Downtown Beloit Association, Greater Beloit Chamber of Commerce, Greater Beloit Economic Development Council and Visit Beloit.