FORMAT FOR THE FACILITATED NETWORKING SESSION WITH LIGHTENING TALKS

WHAT: Participants will self-select a topic area that they want to learn more about, hear a 5-10 minute *Lightening Talk* by the table facilitator and then have time for open discussion with the facilitator and other conference attendees on the table topic.

HOW: Lightning talks are designed to be short presentations between 5 and 10 minutes long. These talks are held in order for individuals to be able to share their ideas and concepts to people who have interest in the specific topic area. Lightning talks are brief which requires the speaker to make their point clearly and rid the presentation of non-critical information. This causes the audience to be more attentive to the speaker and therefore retain a broader array of knowledge from the presentations given. In general lightning talks are given in a format that can include visuals or can just be a verbal presentation.

WHY: The goal of lightning talks is to articulate a topic in a quick, insightful, and clear manner. These concise and efficient talks are intended to gain the attention of the audience, communicate key information, and allow for many presenters to share their ideas in a brief period of time. This method is also meant to spark new conversations and collaborations across disciplines.

WHO: Skilled facilitators who have experience and expertise in the topic area of the table. You will be considered a presenter at this conference and therefore the conference registration fee WILL BE waived, and your bio will be listed in the *About Presenters* document.

WHEN: This session will happen from 1:25 – 2:15 pm, right after lunch, recognitions and the trivia game that will be played to get participants comfortable and energized to share during the Facilitated Network session. There will be 2 rounds so that you will give your talk twice to 2 different groups of attendees.

WHERE: This session will be an extension of lunch and will take place in the Grand Ballroom. We will have large signs with the topic area to put at each table and we will also display a map of the tables on the screens in the ballroom.