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Seattle Housing Authority Employee Named Recipient of International German Fellowship

Washington, D.C. (July 29, 2014) – Seattle Housing Authority Strategic Adviser and National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Official (NAHRO) member Joshua Crites has been named one of 10 U.S. recipients of the prestigious 2014 German Chancellor Fellowship. Each year, representatives from the United States, the People’s Republic of China and the Russian Federation are selected to research and work alongside their German counterparts in the fields of economics, science and politics for one year.

“NAHRO believes in the promotion and sharing of global exchanges of housing and community revitalization information between countries,” said NAHRO President Preston Prince, CME. “The U.S. housing and community development (HCD) industry is undergoing more changes than ever before. By understanding which policies have been successful and which policies have not, we are better able to serve our communities’ most vulnerable families and individuals.”

While abroad, Crites will work at Gesellschaft für Bauen und Wohnen GmbH der Stadt Hannover, a social housing company in Hannover, Germany. His research will focus on the German model for providing affordable housing, specifically funding models, program design and administration. He will also participate in an intensive German language immersion course, a four-week introductory seminar in Bonn and Berlin, a study trip around Germany and Brussels and a final fellowship meeting in Berlin.

Crites’s career in the affordable rental housing industry began with his acceptance in the NAHRO Internship Program in 2009. As a NAHRO Intern, he shadowed seasoned housing and community development professionals at the Walla Walla (Wash.) Housing Authority including NAHRO Fellow and Past President Renee Rooker, CME. Since then, Crites has served as Policy Analyst for the Tacoma (Wash.) Housing Authority and Strategic Adviser for the Seattle Housing Authority.

An emerging leader in the HCD community, Crites holds three NAHRO certifications including the Certified Specialist of Inspections in Housing Quality Standards (CSI-HQS), Certified Specialist of Occupancy in Housing Choice Vouchers (CSO-HCV), and the Certified Specialist of Occupancy in Public Housing (CSO-PH).

NAHRO, established in 1933, is a membership organization of 23,000 housing and community development agencies and professionals throughout the United States whose mission is to create affordable housing and safe, viable communities that enhance the quality of life for all Americans, especially those of low- and moderate-income. NAHRO’s membership administers more than 3 million housing units for 7.6 million people.

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