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Common Council President

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15th District Alderman

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**Willie L. Hines, Jr.**

*City of Milwaukee Common Council*

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## **President Hines Welcomes GLUE Founders; Milwaukee Hosts National Conference**

The **Great Lakes Urban Exchange (GLUE)**, a national network of concerned citizens who are committed to revitalizing cities all along the Great Lakes – e.g. Milwaukee, Chicago, Minneapolis, Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Buffalo and others – will host its national conference in Milwaukee this year, starting tomorrow (Thursday, March 12) evening.

**Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr.**, who has long helped Milwaukee to be an urban pioneer in economic development, Great Lakes protection and sustainable planning, will deliver the conference's opening address tomorrow evening at **Sprecher Brewery**.

**Abby Wilson** and **Sarah Szurpicki**, the Pittsburgh and Detroit natives, respectively, who founded GLUE, noticed that their home cities faced many of the same challenges. They further realized that former "Rust Belt" cities surrounding the Great Lakes encountered similar problems, including population decline, the subsequent loss of tax base, racial segregation, inadequate public transportation and under-performing schools. **The Brookings Institution**, along with a number of foundations, has underwritten GLUE's efforts to address these problems via its region-wide public policy network.

"It's a pleasure and an honor to have urban leaders from around the nation come to Milwaukee this weekend," said President Hines. "We feel fortunate to have Abby, Sarah and the entire GLUE team in town to discuss the common challenges and successes that post-industrial cities around the Great Lakes are experiencing. I anticipate a lot of lively discussion and some fresh ideas that will help move Milwaukee forward."

More information about GLUE and its national conference can be found at **gluespace.org**. "It's about creating a space where people from Buffalo and Detroit can connect and compare notes," Szurpicki said recently of the organization's website, in an interview with *Crain's Detroit Business* newspaper. "We have faith in the people who are working hard for their cities that they will be able to figure out what they can learn and from whom."

***For more specific information about the GLUE conference and organization call 202-271-3016.***