

ASPECT (Alliance for Social, Political, Ethical and Cultural Thought)
and
The Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance
Community Voices Series
Room B Graduate Life Center
November 11, 2009
12:00-1:00 P.M.

Please join us for brief remarks followed by discussion by **Elisa Sabatini**, Executive Director of Via International, a transborder community development nongovernmental organization operating out of San Diego, California and **Andrew Morikawa**, Executive Director of the Community Foundation of the New River Valley, an innovative community-based philanthropy in western Virginia.

Both leaders bring long and rich experience to their community roles and each has also worked internationally as well as domestically. Each will draw on their experience to speak briefly to the major challenges confronting civil society organizations today and then be available to address questions and for general discussion. Please join us for what promises to be a thought provoking opportunity!

Via International:

For a long time, our motto has been "Paths to Self-Reliance" so we have retained the path association but used an international (and Spanish!) word. The word encompasses the many paths to improvement and self-reliance made possible for those we serve, and also to those who participate in our programs.

On this last point, we have been delighted and comforted to learn that, increasingly, the path is not perceived as being one-way: the servers often benefit as much as the served.

Community Foundation of the New River Valley:



Andy Morikawa is the executive director of the Community Foundation of the New River Valley. As a public, not for profit grant maker, the CFNRV serves a rural area in Virginia's Appalachian region. The Foundation and its donors work together to create strategic grants that improve the quality of life in the community. Andy Morikawa has a long term interest and commitment to developing community based initiatives that span divisions of race and class. He is a founding member of several community based initiatives in the area he serves: the Community Group, the New Mountain Climbers Giving Circle, the Floyd Village Green, the Free Clinic of the New River Valley and the SHARE program. Currently Andy serves on the VT-ENGAGE Steering Committee, is a board member for the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library System, the Ethics Committee for the Council on Foundations, advisor to CFLeads, and a member of the organizing groups for Global Dialogue for Responsibility and Citizen Networking of the New River Valley.

Information on ASPECT, Alliance for Social, Political, Ethical, and Cultural Thought, can be found at <http://www.aspect.vt.edu/>

Information on the Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance can be found at: <http://www.ipg.vt.edu/>

Information on Via International can be found at <http://viainternational.org/index.html>

Information on the Community Foundation of the New River Valley can be found at: <http://www.cfnrv.org/index.htm>