

McClanahan secures **NIH Grant** to Promote Healthy Building Practices

Dr. Barbara McClanahan, through the Department of Health & Sport Sciences, was awarded a \$384,000, two year grant from the National Institutes of Health to examine the effect of building practices on creating healthy environments that promote physical activity.

Building healthy communities that promote good health requires input from various professionals including architects, builders, developers, engineers, planners, health, policy and governmental professionals. In April 2010, over 175 of these key stakeholders convened at the University of Memphis for a half-day event “Great Streets ... Healthy Communities” that was co-hosted by **The University of Memphis’ PACE (Partnership for Active Community Environments)** and the Urban Land Institute - Memphis (ULI). This event signaled the first time that professionals from each area of expertise were invited to share their insights and identify the incentives and obstacles to building neighborhoods with a greater emphasis on healthy living.

The event was highlighted by two keynote speakers, Rick Hall and Scott Polikov who focused on traffic, public policy and planning/development issues and their effect on creating healthy community environments. With the growing epidemic of obesity and sedentary living, all of the stakeholders were challenged to examine their current practices and consider action items that would assist in building healthier communities. Information relating to PACE and the Preliminary Report from the April town hall meeting can be obtained from <http://www.memphis.edu/coe/news/pace.pdf>.