

## **EXTENSION BULLETIN**

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### **FROM THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR**

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The New Year will bring many changes to the College and to Extension, that is the nature of who we are and what we do. Whether or not we perceive change to be good, depends on the total amount of change occurring in our lives at the time, and our personal response to change. The transition around the change is the challenge! We spent the weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas having every room and closet painted at home. Almost more change than I would have wanted! Live goes on.

Speaking of change, the State Department of Economic and Community Development spent the last few weeks conducting hearings across the state for their five year strategic plan. I had an opportunity to share Rigoberto Lopez's talk from the Faculty and Staff Workshop in 2007 on the economic impact of the College along with other topics on which we work. There was interest expressed in the human infrastructure needs of the state, as well as just the business development issues. The results of the listening sessions become a stakeholder input process. Is this an idea we should explore as a College for stakeholder input? How would success be measured?

Texas A&M has done work in the area of the economic value of Extension. Dr. Dean McCorkle presented the idea of Extension programs providing both tangible benefits-private and public as well as intangible benefits, such as the willingness to pay. The example provided was the economic costs and benefits of the Walk across Texas program designed to get all of us up and moving. Examining the avoidance of lost productivity and healthcare savings the total potential economic benefit was determined to be \$146 million. Thirty eight (38) Return on Investment studies have been conducted on Extension. As we move forward to position Connecticut CES, the determination of the economic impact of our work is essential.

In the Fall, 2007 edition of *Communities & Banking, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston*, a study conducted by researchers at the University of New Hampshire found that Connecticut was among the top six states in the nation in per capita and household median income, as well as being one of eight U.S. states with the lowest percentage of residents below the poverty line. However, across the nation, disparity in household income experienced the largest jump in New England. From "1989-2004, Connecticut, Vermont, and Massachusetts ranked among the top five states for increased income disparity" (p.21). This, in part, is cited as being due to a high concentration of employment in industries requiring advanced education and training, thus causing low skill workers to leave the state. The article recommends focusing economic development efforts on upgrading education and technology skills for all households. Maintaining a diverse workforce in the state is a critical variable to our future.

One of the economic variables that impact our work is the Farm Bill authorization for funding of Research, Extension, and Education. Both the House and Senate have passed their version of the new Farm Bill that now goes to conference. The best estimates indicate that the nation may have a new Farm Bill as early as the end of February and prior to the beginning of the crop season, a

critical variable for many producers. A recent USDA Economic Research Service document indicates that it is possible for publicly funded agricultural research undertaken today to influence agricultural productivity in as little as 2 years and for that impact to be felt for as long as 30 years. As I have worked on the History of Extension in Connecticut, it has been clear that as a new technology was introduced such as no-till planting, the role of Extension was critical to the acceptance and future success. For details on the Farm Bill go to <http://www.create-21.org/>

### ***CALLS FOR GRANTS/PROPOSALS/NOMINATIONS/WORKSHOPS***

#### **2007-2008 BUILDING COMMUNITIES WEBINAR SERIES ANNOUNCED**

You are invited to participate in the 2007-2008 Building Communities Webinar Series on Community and Economic Development. The series is targeted to Extension educators, their collaborators and partners, and practitioners (including local elected and appointed officials). Follow this link to get directly to the web site addressing this program:

[www.uwex.edu/ces/cced/building\\_community.cfm](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cced/building_community.cfm). If you have questions about the program, please contact Greg Wise, email: [greg.wise@uwex.edu](mailto:greg.wise@uwex.edu), phone: 608-263-7804 or Gary Green, email: [gpgreen@wisc.edu](mailto:gpgreen@wisc.edu), phone: 608-262-2710.

#### **ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES CONFERENCE**

The Association of American Colleges and Universities will be holding a conference titled “Intentional Learning, Unscripted Challenges – Knowledge and Imagination for an Interdependent World,” on January 23-26, 2008 in Washington, D.C. Participants at AAC&U’s 2008 annual meeting will explore innovative and imaginative strategies and structures for college learning – purposeful pathways intentionally designed to encourage students to integrate knowledge of science, cultures, and society; hone high-level intellectual and practical skills; develop personal and social responsibility; and apply learning to complex problems and challenges. Participants will also explore assessment tools that can measure achievement of essential outcomes and provide useful data to ensure that all students get the education they need and deserve in today’s world. For more information, please visit <http://www.aacu.org/meetings/annualmeeting/index.cfm>.

#### **GREEN CHEMISTRY CONFERENCE**

The Occupational and Environmental Health Center at the UConn Health Center invites you to an important conference on February 7, 2008 that will cover the major international changes in chemical policy that will impact Connecticut businesses and workers, and tools and resources that can help you understand the challenges and opportunities for shifting to alternatives. For more information, please contact Tim Morse at [tmorse@uchc.edu](mailto:tmorse@uchc.edu).

#### **STRENGTHENING FAMILIES, YOUTH, AND COMMUNITIES: PUTTING KNOWLEDGE TO WORK CONFERENCE**

Clemson University, Clemson Cooperative Extension Service, the College of Health, Education and Human Development, and the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management are sponsoring the fourth national “Strengthening Families, Youth, and Communities: Putting Knowledge to Work.” The conference will be held February 11-14, 2008 in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Keynote speakers and workshop presenters will share information and showcase programs and curriculum that focus on families, youth, and communities.

Conference themes include:

- Strengthening families, aging, and financial well-being
- Community development and public policy

- Improving family nutrition and wellness
- 4-H and youth development

For more information, please visit <http://www.clemson.edu/fyd/sfy.htm>.

### **9<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL OUTREACH SCHOLARSHIP CONFERENCE**

The 9<sup>th</sup> Outreach Scholarship Conference will be held October 7-9, 2008 at the Penn State Conference Center Hotel in State College, Pennsylvania. What exactly *is* the scholarship of outreach and engagement and why *does* it matter? The outreach conference provides an opportunity for critical reflection on the public mission and work of an academic institution—along with the scholarship that underpins this work—and to strengthen institutional support for engagement and public scholarship. You are invited to submit a proposal for an oral or poster presentation for this conference. Proposals will be due February 25, 2008. For more information on submissions, visit <http://www.outreachscholarship.org>.

### **AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF HISPANIC IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

AAHHE is proud to announce its third annual national conference to be held March 6-8, 2008 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Miami, FL. For more information, please visit [www.aahhe.org](http://www.aahhe.org).

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY**

The University of Missouri Extension Community Development Program offers a series of three courses called the Community Development Academy. Each of the three courses is an intensive, experiential, five-day course that explores ideas and develops practical skills.

For more information and to register, please visit

<http://muconf.missouri.edu/commdevelopmentacademy>.

### **NATIONAL EXTENSION TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE**

North Carolina Cooperative Extension at NC State University will be hosting the 2008 National Extension Technology Conference, NETC08 in the Pines, from April through May 1, 2008 in Raleigh, NC. NETC is the conference for sharing interesting and innovative applications of information technology within the system. For more information, please visit

<http://netc08.ces.ncsu.edu>.

### **2008 NATIONAL WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE EDUCATORS CONFERENCE**

The 2008 National Women in Agriculture Educators Conference will be held April 1-2, 2008 at the Oklahoma City Sheraton in Oklahoma City, OK. The goal of this conference is to broaden risk management educational programming for women in agriculture, to encourage new programming efforts, and to strengthen existing programs. For more information, please visit

<http://www.agrisk.umn.edu/wia/conferences/WIA2008/proposals.aspx>.

### **2008 PRIESTER NATIONAL EXTENSION HEALTH CONFERENCE CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

The 2008 Priester National Extension Health Conference themed “Building Healthy Communities, One Person at a Time,” will be held April 8-10, 2008 at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel in Raleigh, North Carolina. The 2008 Priester National Extension Health Conference theme, Building Healthy Communities, One Person at a Time, celebrates Cooperative Extension's long history of promoting health and preventing disease for individuals of every age and background, in families of all types, living in rural, sub-urban, and urban communities.

<http://continuingeducation.ncsu.edu/PNEHC/index.html>.

### **37th ANNUAL CURRENT ISSUES IN NUTRITION CONFERENCE**

Nutrition Education: What Works? is an Interactive Video Webcast to be held on April 17, 2008 from 9:15 to 3:30 CST. The Current Issues in Nutrition conference is organized by Iowa State University Extension and the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition. For more information, please contact [ucs-info@iastate.edu](mailto:ucs-info@iastate.edu).

### **PUBLIC ISSUES LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE**

The 2008 conference will be held on April 28-30, 2008 at the Key Bridge Marriott in Arlington, Virginia. Online registration is available. For conference details, please visit [www.jcep.org](http://www.jcep.org).

### **CYFAR 2008 IN SAN ANTONIO**

National 4-H Headquarters, Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture announces the 2008 CYFAR Conference May 6-9, 2008 in San Antonio, Texas at the Hyatt Regency San Antonio. CYFAR 2008 will feature inspiring keynote speakers, current youth and family research presenters, exciting interactive workshops and computer labs, as well as a Program Showcase demonstrating the most successful CYFAR community programs. For more information, go to <http://www.cyfernet.org/cyfar08/>.

### **2008 NATURAL RESOURCE EXTENSION PROFESSIONALS CONFERENCE**

Leopold's Legacy: Extension's Response to a Changing World – "The land ethic at work today" The 6<sup>th</sup> Natural Resource Extension Professionals Conference will be held May 20-23, 2008 at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center in Madison, Wisconsin. For information, please see the attached.



anrep2008.pdf

### **2008 NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON URBAN ECOSYSTEMS**

The American Forests Conference themed "Nature and the Network – Building a new framework for people and nature to work together," will be held May 28-30, 2008 at the Caribe Royale Hotel in Orlando, Florida. For more information, please visit <http://www.americanforests.org/conference>.

### **SPANISH IMMERSION**

The Washington State University Learning Center is offering beginner and intermediate Spanish classes to anyone wanting to learn Spanish or sharpen their Spanish speaking skills this summer. The beginner level class will be held 8:00am – 5:00pm on June 20-July 18, 2008 in Longview, Washington. The intermediate level class will be held 8:00am – 5:00pm on July 21-August 1, 2008 in Longview, Washington. For more information, please visit <http://learningcenters.wsu.edu/cowlitz/span.html>.

### **2008 GALAXY III CONFERENCE**

JCEP (Joint Council of Extension Professionals) invites you to submit a proposal to present at the 2008 Galaxy III Conference, to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana September 15-19, 2008. Participants will "Celebrate the Extension System: Strengths, Diversity and Unique Qualities" as they learn best practices for Cooperative Extension programs and renew their personal and professional spirit for working together across organizational and programming lines.

JCEP (Joint Council of Extension Professionals) invites you to submit a proposal to present at the 2008 Galaxy III Conference. Proposal submissions are due January 15, 2008. For more information, please visit [http://ext.msstate.edu/survey/galaxy/galaxy\\_proposals.pdf](http://ext.msstate.edu/survey/galaxy/galaxy_proposals.pdf).

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