

**UCONN EXTENSION
ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY
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There are 629 public four-year institutions in the United States. There are 1,845 private four-year institutions and 1,666 public and private two-year institutions – that totals 4,140 two-year and four-year degree-granting institutions in the U.S. All of these institutions have a teaching mission. Most have a research mission as well. However, only 107 of the 4,140 institutions have land grant status – where teaching, research and Extension work together to solve our nation's critical food, health and environmental issues.

UConn Extension – in the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources – provides the critical third leg of the land grant mission: public engagement. The work of Extension faculty and staff collaborating with our many and valued stakeholders reflect our focus on food, health, and environmental issues that affect citizens, families, communities and businesses across the state. These programs create solutions to our most challenging societal issues using the best available science and technology – created through our College and University research programs. Extension programs are delivered through our eight regional Extension Centers, the Sea Grant program at Avery Point, the 4-H Education Center at Auerfarm, the Home and Garden Education Center and the UConn Extension office in Storrs.

During the reporting period, faculty and staff offered 308 formal outreach programs to Connecticut residents. Our off campus classrooms include: high-tech greenhouses, coastal estuaries, elementary school gardens, community centers for high risk teens and municipal town halls. Non-credit course work uses an interdisciplinary approach and takes knowledge directly to the public. UConn Extension enhances small businesses, the economic and physical wellbeing of families and offers opportunities to improve the decision-making capacity of community leaders.

UConn Extension provides significant and continual recruiting efforts to increase student enrollment at the University. Outreach programs annually reach youth and adults statewide at UConn Extension Centers, which engage communities and serve as gateways to the University. Extension programs frequently bring youth and adults to Storrs and the regional campuses where they experience the educational opportunities and environment of the University. Although UConn Extension is not a degree-granting unit, our faculty also taught six undergraduate courses and guest-lectured in many others. Faculty and staff also served as advisors of four student organizations.

Program excellence has been significantly enhanced through the successful solicitation of external funds. During the reporting period, faculty and program staff members were involved as PI or Co-PI on 180 active and new grants totaling over \$4.9 million, including the Smith-Lever grant. Examples of some UConn Extension programs and projects supported by external funds: Agriculture Food Research Initiative (AFRI), Agricultural Risk Management, Aquaculture, Build-out Analyses for Land Use Planning and Management, Buy 10% Local Campaign, Center for Land Use Research and Education (CLEAR), Children, Youth, and Families at Risk (CYFAR), Climate Hub, Fitness, Nutrition and Health, Food Safety, Forest Stewardship, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Global Positioning Systems (GPS), Healthy Homes, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Marine Ecology and Fisheries, Non-point Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO), Pesticide Safety Education, Supplemental Nutrition Education Program-Ed (SNAP-Ed), Urban Forestry, Urban Gardening, and Water.

Scholarly publications for clientele and peers develops and enhances high quality, outreach education programs. Over 206 works were produced and included: journal articles, conference proceedings, Extension bulletins, technical reports, presentations and others. Faculty and staff also provided 804 clinical, extension and other expert services including media interviews, individual services and newsletters. Another 44 presentations were given to community groups.

Faculty received nine non-teaching awards, 20 held editorial positions or organized conferences, and 14 served on University level committees. Additionally, 40 served on committees or councils at the College and six at the regional campus levels. UConn Extension members served on 16 state and five federal government committees.

UConn Extension educators utilize system-wide, sustainable approaches to meet the varied public engagement needs of clientele. Through our outreach program efforts, 115,519 clientele contacts were achieved during the past year. Indirect contacts with state citizens were also made through newspaper articles, fact sheets, websites, social media and other communication platforms. Programs conducted in schools, community presentations, training sessions for community leaders, and our trained Extension volunteers leverage the ability of UConn Extension faculty and staff to serve all of the cities and towns in Connecticut. We have no fewer than 11 programs in each town in the state, with up to 30 programs in select municipalities.

Community outreach is a key part of UConn Extension's public engagement. UConn Extension has 2,216 enrolled volunteers who work year-round on defined program participation and services, facilitating programs based in our eight regional Extension offices, the Bartlett Arboretum in Stamford, and the 4-H Center at Auerfarm in Bloomfield. Volunteers bring UConn statewide delivering programs like 4-H STEM, Master Gardener programs dispensing information to home gardeners, and urban empowerment and leadership through the People Empowering People program. Our Master Gardener program donated 31,350 hours to towns across the state. 4-H youth members and adult volunteers donated 71,460 hours to their local communities. The Independent Sector values this volunteer time at \$23 per hour with a total value of \$2.36 million dollars in volunteer assistance to Extension.

In recent years the University of Connecticut main campus has become a showcase for "green infrastructure," storm water management practices that use a variety of techniques to reduce runoff in an environmentally friendly way. Green infrastructure practices like bioretention, green roofs and pervious pavements have been installed around campus to help restore a more natural hydrologic balance. Extension educators created a unique system to estimate the benefits of the green infrastructure on campus. Through 2014, more than 45 million gallons of storm water have been treated. To put this in perspective, this is enough to fill more than 63 Olympic sized swimming pools. To accomplish this, 444,000 square feet - which is over 10 acres, of impervious surface was disconnected from the storm water system. This is about the equivalent of 7.6 football fields.

The Climate Adaptation Academy was created by UConn Extension as an innovative approach to studying and responding to the impact of climate change. It uses a peer-to-peer system to exchange information and reaches out to municipal officials, non-profits and individuals involved in and concerned about climate change. Legal and risk management issues related to climate adaptation and the impacts of climate change on coastal communities and agriculture are addressed through peer exchanges, geographic information systems, and emergency response systems from disasters such as Hurricane Sandy. One of the biggest challenges for municipalities is flooding from inadequate storm water systems, which were built based on standards developed 50-60 years ago. Green infrastructures like those on the UConn campus are introduced through the Academy to help at risk municipalities realign infrastructure.

The combined impact of UConn Extension's agricultural programs encourages a more vibrant and sustainable local food system, increases public awareness and improves access to healthy, affordable food. In 2014, the UConn Extension Integrated Pest Management (IPM) team provided training to 9,670 participants in the state on reducing pesticide use. Food safety is a high priority and UConn Extension programs offer training and certification for the farm, processor, food service and consumer levels in seafood, meat, and produce. To date, approximately 1,093 shellfish industry members and regulatory staff have received HACCP training.

Invasive plants and insects are challenging the state. UConn Extension is on the front lines researching effective solutions and tying this research to real life for industries, government officials, and citizens impacted by invasive pests. Science-based approaches for the management of pests were provided to 13,400 people during the reporting period.

The success of the future of our nation depends on the youth of today. UConn Extension 4-H STEM programs teach youth leadership and citizenship skills, while improving self-confidence and decision-making skills. Over 20,180 youth and 1,191 of our volunteers participated. By teaching young people ages 5-18 that science, technology, engineering and math can be fun, we build on a century of 4-H knowledge that early STEM exposure opens doors for youth to explore a host of STEM themes directing them to think of careers in these fields. A total of 16,770 youth participated in STEM project areas in 2014. UConn Extension's 4-H program utilizes the power of UConn research and innovation to play a vital role in preparing the next generation of scientists, engineers and technology experts for Connecticut's future.

People Empowering People (PEP) is a personal and family development program with a focus on building strong communities. PEP builds upon individual experiences and strengths to encourage growth in communication and problem solving skills, parent and family relationships, and community involvement. In 2014, PEP programs were run in 14 cities and towns, by \$91,524 in grants, benefitting 4,425 people through public engagement projects. Programs were conducted in English, Spanish, Albanian, Punjabi and Bengali.

UConn Extension is a vital asset to our state and drives innovation, invention, creativity and discovery in agriculture, aquaculture and natural resources by partnering with Connecticut business, industry and non-profit organizations. Targeted research enhances economic development through responsible and sustainable growth by investing in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. We also play a key role in developing a trained workforce in science and biotechnology through education and youth development programs that tie UConn research to real life.