

Administration News from Glen:

I spent the early part of last week meeting with the Extended Term and Promotion Working Group out at the Vee Bar Guest Ranch near Laramie. As you may recall, I serve as the administrative liaison to that group. The ET&P group had a great discussion and made significant progress on their charge. I did my best to keep quiet (not always successfully) and let them do their work. I expect that you will be hearing from them in early spring. I understand that the 4-H Youth Development Working Group also met last week in Riverton to wrestle with the challenging questions posed in their charge. All of the groups have met, and as I observe, are making good progress on their tasks. In some cases these deliberations have involved difficult discussions. I appreciate the hard work of those leading and serving on the four working groups and the boldness with which that have taken on the challenge. Thank you!

I usually try to avoid mentioning awards in my News Briefs comments for inclusiveness reasons, but I can't constrain myself this time. You may know that Ann Roberson received the Outstanding Staff Award for the college at the College Awards Ceremony a few weeks ago. Congratulations Ann! You probably don't know that Cathy Shuster received the Staff Senate Outstanding Employee of the Quarter award, an award given quarterly to one staff member of the University. Congratulations Cathy! We will all have an opportunity to select among the four quarterly recipients for 2015 for the Staff Senate Outstanding Employee of the Year. More on that will be coming. I know and you know what outstanding and supportive colleagues these two are. It is nice that others around the University recognize it too.
Safe Travels, Glen

Personnel News:

Welcome Julie Balzan, SE Area Nutrition and Food Security Educator. Julie will be located at the Platte County Extension Office in Wheatland beginning June 1, 2016. Julie has a BS in Home Economics Education and an MS in Agricultural Extension, both from the University of Wyoming. While studying at UW, she held a work study position with Linda Melcher (EFNEP Coordinator), UW Extension and the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. She joins Extension with expertise in utilizing research to develop and provide nutrition, food safety and preparation and wellness programming and implementation. Contact information for Julie will be shared closer to her start date in Platte County. Congratulations to Julie and welcome to UW Extension.



Welcome Seth Radtke! Seth began as the part-time Sweetwater County Horticulture Assistant on January 7, 2016. He is currently pursuing an on-line Bachelor's Degree in secondary education from Western Governors University. Seth is passionate about horticulture and enjoys growing fruits and vegetable in his home garden in Green River where he has lived for 12 years. In addition to other community involvement, he also teaches community education through Western Wyoming Community College. Seth can be reached at sradtke@uwyo.edu or 307-352-6775.

Campbell County, Ag & Hort – Position #0568, based in Gillette. The position is closed and will re-open soon.

Crook County, SMRR – Position #1675, based in Sundance. This is an extended term track, Assistant UEE position. This position closed November 16, 2015. Approval to offer the position has been granted and an announcement will be made soon.

State 4-H Office, 4-H Volunteer Specialist – Position #2137, based in Laramie (campus). This is an extended term track as either an Assistant, Associate, or Senior UEE position. This position closed November 24, 2015, and screening is completed. Approval to interview has been granted and interviews will be scheduled soon.

Farewell to Milt Geiger, Energy Extension Coordinator based here on campus. Milt will be leaving UW Extension effective January 29th to pursue other interests in Colorado. We wish him well in the future.

Staff Development/Federal Relations News from Kim:

Professional Development News

The 2016 EPIC will be held in Laramie and I hope to have dates and facility confirmed in the next few weeks. Please look for that information in the February News Brief.

Civil Rights Tip

The final civil rights trainings and compliance reviews have been completed for this year! Thanks to the Civil Rights Advisors who helped conduct the training and review sessions: Scott Cotton, Josie Ibarra, Brian Sebade, Caleb Carter, Tansey Sussex, and Mae Smith. I will be working with the following counties to schedule their civil rights training and review in 2016: Laramie, Lincoln, Platte, Sheridan, Uinta, and Washakie.

Civil rights training and compliance reviews, which are required by NIFA, are the heart of determining how well benefits and services are delivered by NIFA's recipients in compliance with Title VI, the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The federal funding received for Extension obligates us to provide programming that is free of discrimination and intentional about ensuring affirmative action processes are in place when planning, designing, and implementing educational programs and activities. The review provides for a partnership relationship between USDA and land-grant universities and is used to make recommendations for policy changes and to improve program delivery to all. The review process itself is intended to increase awareness of our managerial responsibilities, improve understanding of the need for documentation, avoid potential problems of investigation and complaints associated with noncompliance, enable employees to be more knowledgeable of laws, rules, and regulations, and how they apply to programming efforts.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about our obligation for compliance with Title VI, the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Cent\$ible Nutrition Program News from Mindy:

It is my pleasure to announce our new Cent\$ible Nutrition Program Assistant in Platte County. Mary Evans started January 4th. Prior to joining CNP she worked for the Platte County Resource District and taught Ag in the Classroom. She has lived in Wheatland for 16 years and is well known in the community. Her husband is a rancher and they have 3 children and 2 grandchildren. Welcome Mary!

I would like to wish Betty Greear well in her retirement. Betty's last day was January 6th. She has contributed greatly to CNP over the years and will be missed. The Natrona County Extension office is planning a retirement reception for Betty on Friday, January 22nd from 3 to 6 pm at the ARLC.

CNP has an opening on the WRIR for a Cent\$ible Nutrition Program Assistant. If you know anyone who is interested in joining the CNP team, please let them know about the position. It is 35 hours per week, benefited, and grant funded. The position closes on January 20, 2016. The position job id is 7808 and posted at <https://jobs.uwyo.edu/>. Wishing everyone a happy 2016!