

Administrative News from Glen:

It is time to think about academic planning again as the University is on a track to develop University Plan IV, covering years 2014 – 2020. Though the thoughts of starting another planning cycle are a little intimidating to me, I have only to consider the question a moment to recognize that it is time for UW Extension to take another look. Academic Plan II encompassed the strategic planning activity of a decade ago. Academic Plan III was all about fine tuning with the key issues being mentoring, branding and marketing, and stakeholder input/needs assessment. It has been 10 years since we took a hard look at UW Extension; it is time to look again. Our Extension Administrative Team has spent some time this spring discussing the process for planning and creating Academic Plan IV. The Extension Coordinating Committee will meet in a couple of weeks. The discussion of the approach and process for planning will be continued there. This planning will be completed during the next academic year as a UW Extension plan will be required for College and Academic Affairs review in late summer 2013. So, gear up for planning. Regardless of the process we follow, an early step will be identification of the opportunities and challenges to address in planning; be thinking. There will be opportunities for all to contribute and be involved in planning for the future of UW Extension.

Like you, I have been reading about potential cuts in state funding in the newspapers. Certainly there is reason for concern with minerals revenue falling. My conversations with commissioners last week at the Wyoming County Commissioners Association meeting indicate tightening budgets in many counties; again, a reason for concern. I don't have any information beyond the news and these rather casual conversations. I am confident we will be able to work through any budget challenges that come; but it is a good time for all in Extension to aggressively demonstrate and articulate the value and impact of our work.

Regards, Glen

Personnel News:

West Area Extension Educator, SMRR – Position #1699, based in Sublette County. Position will be reopened.

CNN Area Extension Educator, PSAS/Small Acreage – Position #0524, based in Natrona County. This is an extended term track position. Interviews will be held May 23rd.

NW Area Extension Educator, PSAS/Crops – Position #1180, based in Washakie County. This is an extended term track position. Interviews will be held May 22nd.

NW Area Extension Educator, NFS – Position #1205, based in Fremont County-Lander. This is an extended term track position. Screening will begin May 23rd.

Carbon County 4-H/Youth Education – Position #2241, based in Rawlins. This is a full time, non-extended term track position. Screening will begin May 17th.

NE Area Extension Educator, PSAS – Position #0568, based in Campbell County. This will be an Assistant or Associate UEE, extended term track position. Screening will begin May 17th.

Staff Development/Federal Relations News from Susan:

Professional Development News

In-Depth Training 2012 – Mark your calendars and reserve November 5-8, 2012 in Laramie.

Planning committee members are: Kellie Chichester – PSAS, Jennifer Cheney – 4-H, Julie Daniels – CDE, Mindy Meuli – CNP, Mae Smith – SMRR, Diane Saenz – NFS and Kelly Crane, Administrative Liaison. Watch for details in coming months.

UW Extension New Employee Training – will be held on the UW campus in Laramie September 10–14, 2012.

ESCAPE – Extension Secretary Conference - a Professional Event: September 18–21 in Wheatland.

Reporting Tip

Reporting outcomes and impact is critical to providing accountability for all UW Extension programs. Evaluation is necessary to document results. Evaluations do not have to be cumbersome for clientele. Here are three key questions to ask program participants:

1. Did you learn at least one new concept, practice, idea from the program? (Shows knowledge and skills gained)
2. Do you plan to implement any changes in (practice, behavior) as a result of the program? Please list what you plan to do? (Documents behavior change)
3. What is the most important idea you can use from the program? (Documents what they gained from the program)

To truly measure impact, a follow-up after the program with a sample of participants to learn if they actually implemented any of the changes shows results.

Civil Rights Tip

New Civil Rights Advisors have been appointed to the state team. We welcome Mary Louise Wood, Julie Daniels, Scott Hininger, and Bridger Feuz. They will be joining Tina Russell and Ashley Garrelts as state advisors.

Why do we spend time on civil rights? The objective of the state civil rights advisors is to provide leadership, training and guidance to ensure that UW Extension which receives National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) funds complies with federal nondiscrimination laws and related USDA departmental rules and regulations. Specifically, NIFA requires that state land-grant university partners comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination in federally assisted programs, and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination in federal employment practices. Reviews provide training to ensure that county offices have needed documentation in the event of a complaint or review.

At the federal level NIFA Equal Opportunity Staff (EOS) visits states approximately every five – ten years. Through compliance reviews at state land-grant universities and collection of program and employment data, EOS ensures that recipients of research and extension programs have equal access to all program services. The compliance review produces information needed for EOS to submit civil rights reports to NIFA administration and U.S. Department of Justice on a regular basis.

Customer Service Tip

Do you remember frequent customers? Comments such as “I remember you called last month with a lawn problem” make customers feel valued. So show that you recognize familiar faces or voices and, whenever possible, use customer’s names.

**University of Wyoming Summer Hours (7:30am–4:30pm) begin Monday, May 7th
UW Campus will be closed Monday, May 28th for the Memorial Day Holiday**

Cent\$ible Nutrition Program News from Mary Kay:

Spring Fling (cleverly written by Mindy Meuli) 😊

On April 18th & 19th the Cent\$ible Nutrition Program went fishing. The theme of our Spring Fling training was “Fishing for Knowledge.” The 24 hours spent in Casper went swimmingly fast. Wearing newly created fishing hats, a lot of knowledge and new ideas were caught. Chris Pasley and Denise Smith cast out information on stress and sleep. Melissa Bardsley taught how to purchase and prepare safe and tasty fish. Networking with the Wyoming Food Bank was a deep success, creating new community partnerships. Fishing for CNP competencies was the catch of the day, as the core values and principles of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed) and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Program (EFNEP) were shared.

One of the goals of the training was to increase fish and seafood intake as recommended in the 2010 Dietary Guidelines. The participants prepared dinner on Tuesday using several fish recipes, salad, and black bean brownies. The group tried Orange Roughy Picante, Tilapia Fish Tacos, Cod Fish Chowder, and Salmon Orzo Salad with Asparagus. Physical activity was included in the training with a new walk video provided for each educator.

Kathleen Lunde from the Agriculture Business Office and the Nutrition and Food Safety Area Educators also attended the training.