

Administrative News from Glen:

I'll confess, this issue of News Briefs is a week late because I didn't get back from the Holiday break in time to meet the earlier deadline. All I can say is, I hope you had a relaxing holiday break too. Happy New Year! I did make a few New Years' resolutions, but none I want to share!

I know that many of you could not make the College of Ag and Natural Resources Awards ceremony and holiday party so I want to recognize the Extension folks who received the 'Outstanding' awards. I am delighted at the recognition of these wonderful colleagues and their contributions to the College's success.

Theresa Chavez, Extension Technology Specialist, received an Outstanding Staff Award. Congratulations Theresa!

Bob Baumgartner, Farm Manager at the Sustainable Agricultural Research and Extension Center, received the other Outstanding Staff Award. Congratulations Bob!

And last but not least, Randy Weigel, Extension Human Development Specialist, received an Outstanding Educator Award. Congratulations Randy!

Again, Happy New Year and safe travels. - Glen

Personnel News:

Natrona County, 4-H and Youth Development Educator – Position #0401, based in Casper. This is a non-extended term position. Screening has been extended until January 30, 2014.

Sweetwater County, 4-H and Youth Development Educator – Position #4031, based in Rock Springs. This is a non-extended term position. Interviews have been held. An announcement will be made soon.

Washakie County Extension Educator, PSAS – Position #1180, based in Worland. This is an extended term track, Assistant UEE Position. Interviews will be held later in January.

Big Horn County Extension Educator, SMRR – Position #0404, based in Greybull. This is an extended term track, Assistant UEE Position. Interviews will be held later in January.

Staff Development/Federal Relations News from Susan:

Professional Development News

2014 In-Depth Training will be held **November 3 – 6, 2014**. Please block these dates on your calendars now. Initiative teams and CNP will be working on training topics. We will use the Hilton Garden Inn and UW Conference Center for the training in Laramie.

UW Extension – New Employee Training will be held **September 8 – 11, 2014** in Laramie. All new employees hired since October 1, 2013 should reserve these dates.

Reporting Tip

At EPIC we announced that we are moving to a new on-line reporting system. The system is up and running and from most reports, working well. We will no longer require UW Extension employees to report time. The new system will be used to gather contact data only. If you have no contacts – you don't report any data for that day. **Many thanks** to Ann Tanaka, UW Extension Web Designer who has developed this new program. The new program is Web based, and can be accessed from your PC, laptop, I-pad or other tablet, and smartphone. As in the past, this data will be collected from October 1, 2013 – September 30, 2014. **All reporting should be entered by September 30, 2014.**
URL: <http://www.uwextensionreporting.org>.

The user name and password you had in the old **reporting system** is what you will need to access this system. If you can't remember your user name or password, contact Cathy Shuster, Theresa Chavez, or myself.

Civil Rights Tip

With the start of a new year, every county should schedule a 4-H Expansion and Review committee meeting. A federal civil rights requirement, expansion and review committees should meet at least once annually for the sole purpose of discussing methods to reach underserved youth audiences. The makeup of the committee should be primarily of individuals who are not affiliated with the 4-H program – your 4-H council IS NOT an expansion and review committee. Suggested committee members should represent the geographic areas in your county and may include a school representative, other youth organizations, or someone from the juvenile justice system as a few ideas. Minutes should be taken at the meeting and kept on file. If you have questions, please contact Susan.

Customer Service Tip

Tips to Maintain a Positive Attitude

1. Keep your life in perspective. Before you blow your stack, ask yourself, "Is this really that important?" Compare it to the things that truly matter in your life. Don't let the pesky little things upset you.
2. Let go of the negative. When you hear yourself saying negative things about yourself (or other people or situations) - STOP! Don't waste your time and energy.
3. You can't always control what happens to you. But, you can control how you react. You're in control of your emotions.
4. No one makes you mad. You choose to get mad, or sad, or happy. So, don't choose to get mad at customers. Instead, choose to have a positive attitude.
5. Moods are contagious. What attitude are you conveying? Are you "infecting" others with good or bad moods?
6. Avoid negative people. Don't let them infect you. Instead, surround yourself with positive people.

By: Kelly J. Watkins, MBA. Kelly offers Keynotes and Communication Training. For FREE tips, visit: www.keepcustomers.com or (812)246-2424.

Cent\$ible Nutrition Program News from Mary Kay:

As we start the new calendar year, we wish future success to employees who have recently left the program; Kate Boss, Kathy Ridgely, Jolene Catron, and Camden Robbins. In addition, we have vacancies in Albany and Carbon Counties that are being filled on a temporary, as-need basis with Ruth Lake and Fio Wailes.

We are looking forward to a Farm Bill in the near future so we can determine our budget and begin filling these vacancies.



eXcellence in eXtension

A cash prize for the best utilization of eXtension.org capabilities!

\$500 for 1st place

\$250 for 2nd place

Share your existing materials and programming nationwide, lead a Community of Practice (CoP), answer “Ask-an-Expert” questions, offer webinars, adapt programming from other states and more!

Nominations, including self-nominations, will be accepted through March 31, 2014. The form is available at the UWE homepage under “Employee Login, Professional Development.”

Technical details:

Award will be determined by the Administrative team based upon eXtension reporting, nomination process, and assessment of effectiveness. Incentive will be paid by June 1, 2014, so get started using eXtension now. Got questions - contact Stan Skrabut or Milt Geiger.



eXcellence in eXtension Award

The use of eXtension can strengthen our ability to serve clientele in Wyoming and improve UW’s standing among our land-grant university peers. The award will recognize UWE staff, educators, and specialists who effectively engage the resources of eXtension.org. Potential activities include:

- Prompt and accurate responses to Ask an Expert (AaE) inquiries;
- Sharing of webinars via Learn;
- Participation and/or leadership in a Community of Practice (CoP)
- Sharing curriculum and content for Resource Areas;
- Adapting curriculum found on eXtension for use in Wyoming;
- Other creative and productive uses of eXtension.org!

The award winners, with the associated cash prizes, will be selected by the UW administration team from all nominated individuals or teams. Leaders of the eXtension Institutional team are not eligible. All nominations must be submitted by March 31, 2014, with the winner announced by June 1.



Campus will be closed Monday, January 20, 2014 to recognize the
Martin Luther King/ Wyoming Equality Day holiday.