

Administration News from Glen:

Our four academic planning working groups have been busy, as have many of you reviewing and commenting on their preliminary recommendations. I am very pleased with the thoughtfulness and progress of each of the groups. I am generally aware of the perspectives and the current thinking of each. I really don't have anything else to offer as they are still at work, but wanted to acknowledge their effort and thank the committee members for their diligence and willingness to set aside their own personal interests and work for what is best for Extension.

The last set of revenue projections for the state raise the specter of additional budget cuts for the FY17 budget year. I don't really know anything specific but understand that some additional cuts may be expected. Perhaps I am a Pollyanna, but I am confident we will be able to work through the challenges of tight budgets and continue to serve our Wyoming communities.
Safe Travels, Glen

Personnel News

We are happy to welcome Sarah Torbert and Julie Balzan to UW Extension!



Sarah Torbert will join the State 4-H Office on May 16th as the 4-H Volunteer Development Specialist. Sarah earned a BS in Ag Education from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and an MS in Training and Development from the University of Wisconsin-Stout. She has 14 years of experience working with 4-H volunteers through Extension programs in Wisconsin and Missouri. In addition, Sarah worked with volunteers in the Girl Scout program in Wisconsin. Sarah can be reached at: storb@uwyo.edu or 307-766-5027.

Julie Balzan will be located at the Platte County Extension Office serving the SE Area in Nutrition and Food Safety full time beginning June 1st. Julie has a BS in Home Economics Education and an MS in Agricultural Extension, both from the University of Wyoming. She joins Extension with expertise in utilizing research to develop and provide nutrition, food safety and preparation and wellness programming and implementation. Julie's contact information is: jbalzan@uwyo.edu or 307-322-3667.



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

Food and Nutrition Specialist – Position #0583, based (on campus) Department of FCS, UWE, and College of Ag & Natural Resources. This is an extended term track Assistant or Associate UEE position. The position has closed and screening is underway.

Sweetwater County, NFS – Position #0140, based in Rock Springs. This is an extended term track, Assistant UEE position. Screening will begin May 13, 2016.

Staff Development/Federal Relations News from Kim:

Professional Development News

County Coordinator Training is May 24, 2:30 to 3:30 pm via Zoom. The training topic will be Financial Ins and Outs provided by Cath Harris and Martha Miller. Cath will give a brief overview of the Ag Business Office, as well as some basic financial practices, and Martha will share an overview of UW P-cards. The Zoom connection is <https://zoom.us/j/948216417> or you can join by phone: (646)568-7788 (US Toll) or (415)762-9988 (US Toll) / Meeting ID: 948 216 417. The next County Coordinator Training will be offered in the fall.

Civil Rights Tip

If someone who had mobility challenges came to your office would they have a positive experience? What about the facilities where you conduct educational programs? A few items to consider are found in the Civil Rights Review Facilities check list which are discussed below.

- If a person uses a wheelchair, are the aisles, reception areas and doorways wide enough for them to be able to navigate? Aisles and reception areas should be at least 36 inches wide; Doorways should be a minimum of 32 inches wide.
- What about door thresholds? If someone was in a wheelchair, using crutches, or had trouble seeing, would the door thresholds be difficult for them to cross. Would they create a barrier to cross in a wheel chair or cause someone to trip because they are too high? Door thresholds should be one half inch or less or provide a ramp to make access easier and reduce the risk of an accident. It is also best to have floors that are hard surface or carpet that has less than a one half inch nap.
- Extension offices often have a lot of “stuff” to store. Furniture, equipment, program supplies, teaching props, and educational displays are all things, that if left in an aisle, reception area, public meeting space or office can create obstacles for people with mobility issues. It’s important to be conscientious about where your office “stuff” is stored so that it does not create a barrier for people.

Cent\$ible Nutrition Program News from Mindy:

April was a busy month for CNP as we had several trainings for our employees across the state. We had new employee training in Casper, and we also held our annual Spring Fling training in Sheridan.

At Spring Fling we had an agenda full of policy, system, and environmental change approaches, integrating physical activity into lessons, the 2015-2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, Marty Moose, and much more. We also had some fun with the theme of Spring Fling. This year the theme was “Kentucky Derby” and we decorated derby hats, played horse trivia, and sipped on iced mint tea. It was a busy but fun and successful few days!

We have a new CNP Assistant starting this month. Crystal McFadden will join the Natrona County office on May 2nd. We are very excited to have another new employee join the team! We also have another training scheduled in Laramie this month. This is a continuation training for our new CNP Assistants. They will be learning about our youth curricula and teaching their first lesson to the group.

Message from Cathy:

I wanted to say “thank you” once again for all the votes, cards, Facebook/Twitter posts, and emails when I received the 2016 UW Employee of the Year Award last month. I still catch myself thinking WOW...how amazing is this! Truly an unbelievable honor. 😊

UW Summer Hours Begin May 16 - University of Wyoming business and administrative offices will observe summer hours (7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) beginning Monday, May 16, through Friday, Aug. 26. Fall semester classes will begin Monday, Aug. 29.

UW classes will be dismissed, and offices will be closed Monday, May 30, for **Memorial Day**.