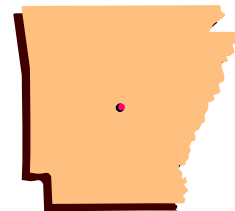


**Southern Region Program Leadership Network
Community Development Committee
2008 State Report
Arkansas**



1. Report Submitted by (please provide full contact information):

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2. Program Description and Staffing Plan:

The mission statement of the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service (UAEX) Community and Economic Development (CED) program is "To improve the social and economic well-being of Arkansas communities through research-based educational programming that increases the knowledge, skills and participation of citizens in creating their desired future." Programming focuses on the following areas: Visioning and Strategic Planning, Leadership, Economic Development, Local Government Finance and Public Policy. These emphasis areas and the flagship programs within these areas have been identified and developed through extensive strategic planning and detailed committee work over the past few years.

Program Descriptions:

- ❑ **Visioning and Strategic Planning:** *Breakthrough Solutions* helps communities and regions create and implement a blueprint for a sustainable future. *Connected Communities* harnesses the power of information technologies and broadband connectivity to facilitate economic development and improve the quality of life in local communities.
- ❑ **Leadership:** Flagship programs *LeadAR* and *ConnectAR*, help community, county, and state-wide organizations by identifying and training active and effective leaders.
- ❑ **Economic Development:** UAEX CED helps communities identify economic opportunities and implement alternative economic development strategies. *Arkansas Procurement Assistance Center (APAC)* provides training, technical assistance and resources to help Arkansas businesses sell products and services to public agencies and their contractors. Faculty promote the development and support of rural entrepreneurs through both *community and youth based entrepreneurship programs*. *Income Tax School* provides reviews and updates on tax law for tax professionals.
- ❑ **Local Government Finance:** UAEX CED provides educational programs and resources that help local government officials and community members understand fiscal issues and develop strategies for providing basic services and infrastructure.
- ❑ **Public Policy Center:** The Public Policy Center provides analysis and public education on health, environmental and public finance issues and ballot initiatives to help Arkansas residents in the public decision making process.

Faculty and Staff:

The UAEX CED program is supported by 6 FTEs at the Professor and Associate Professor levels. 2.5 FTEs at the Instructor/Educator levels and 6 FTEs at the Research/Program Assistant, Associate, and Coordinator levels. Faculty and staff are as follows:

- Tony Windham – Professor and Assistant Director, Agriculture and Natural Resources and Community and Economic Development
- Wayne Miller – Professor, Community and Economic Development
- Mark Peterson – Professor, Community Development
- Joe Waldrum – Professor, LeadAR
- Tom Riley – Associate Professor and Director, Public Policy Center
- Deborah Tootle – Associate Professor, Community and Economic Development
- Sue Coates – Instructor and Program Director, APAC
- Stacey McCullough – Instructor, Community and Economic Development
- John Payne – Instructor, Public Policy Center
- Lorrie Barr – Program Associate, Public Policy Center
- Bobby Hall – Program Associate, Community and Economic Development
- Kim Magee – Program Associate, Community and Economic Development
- Richard Moss – Program Associate, Community and Economic Development
- Maureen Rose – Program Associate, Community and Economic Development
- Dot Temple – Administrative Associate, LeadAR

3. Program Highlights for 2007:

- Training and Curricula/Tools for County Agents**
 - o Youth and adult entrepreneurship education and curricula
 - o E-commerce education and curricula
 - o Local government workshops and curricula
 - o Templates for analyzing fiscal trends
 - o Public policy education
- Conferences Organized**
 - o Arkansas Wind Energy Conference
 - o Breakthrough Solutions: Its All Connected
 - o Fourth Annual Veterans in Business Conference
- Community and State-wide Programs and Projects**
 - o APAC Agri Project
 - o Breakthrough Solutions
 - o Working Forest Carbon Credits Program
 - o ConnectAR Community Action Leadership Program
 - o Connected Communities AR
 - o Coping With Disaster
 - o Delta Geographic Concentration Initiative
 - o Government Contracting Courses
 - o Income Tax School
 - o Thirteenth LeadAR Class

4. Plans/New Directions for 2008:

In April, 2008, CED underwent a departmental review. The review team, comprised of three land grant university faculty and one Arkansas stakeholder, has responded with a comprehensive review document. Our major plans for 2008 are to continue work in three focus areas (economic development, leadership and public policy) and begin addressing the issues identified and recommendations made in the review.

5. Collaborative Activities and Funding Sources:

- APAC (cost-sharing agreement with Department of Defense)
- APAC Agri Project (funded by the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation)
- Breakthrough Solutions and Connected Communities AR (funded by nineteen partner organizations and program sponsors)
- Delta Geographic Concentration Initiative (funded by the Southern Rural Development Center with the Walton Family Foundation)
- E-Commerce for Arkansas Retirees (funded by University of Arkansas CES Innovative Grants Program)
- Entre-What? Youth Entrepreneurship (partial funding by Bank of America)
- eXtension Entrepreneurship Community of Practice (funded by the National eXtension Team)
- Hispanic Entrepreneurs (with University of Arkansas Dept. of Human Environmental Sciences and funded by USDA NRI/GCP)
- Income Tax School (collaboration with IRS, Social Security, and State of Arkansas; funding via fee-for-service)
- Low Impact Development Best Management Practices to Remediate Sediment from Urban Development in Fayetteville, AR (with the City of Fayetteville and the University of Arkansas Ecological Commission; funded by the University of Arkansas Community Design Center)
- Non-Point Source Interim Management Project (funded by Arkansas Natural Resources Commission)
- Osage and Spring Creek Water Quality & Ecological Assessment (funded by McGoodwin, Williams & Yates Engineering)
- Renewable energy technologies educational outreach (with the Arkansas Economic Development Commission; funded by the Arkansas Energy Office)
- Other funding sources include the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture (partial funding for the Public Policy Center), LeadAR Alumni (raised funding for LeadAR programming), and fee-for-service programming.

6. Additional Information: