

## SRPLN FCS State Report 2012

Reporting Institution: \_\_\_\_\_ 1862 \_\_\_\_\_\_ 1890 (check one)

### Name of Institution:

West Virginia State University-FCS Program Area

### Budget Situation:

- As with most institutions in the country, WVSU has been suitably impacted by the economic hardship occurring in our country. West Virginia State University currently receives **\$1,908,000** in state land-grant research and extension matching funds. The University is seeking an additional **\$842,534** to meet the congressionally mandated 100% match requirement necessary to draw down its federal extension and research formula funding. Therefore the total required state match request is **\$2,750,534**.
- Since 2000, more than \$60 million has been infused into the economy of West Virginia as a result of the University's Land-Grant Status. To continue the flow of these external funds to the state, the Legislature must meet the minimum congressionally mandated funding levels. It is important to note that the current \$1,908,000 in state land-grant funding is annually leveraged to bring in an additional \$6,000,000 in extramural funding for the state of West Virginia, thus generating more than a 300% or 3 to 1 return on investment to the state

### How Institution is Addressing the Situation:

The staff representing the Gus R. Douglass Land Grant Institute, continue to be aggressive in seeking external funding sources and value added partnerships. Each FCS Specialist has a majority of their salaries accounted for through partnership development, which provide opportunities for the administration to accrue savings for the division, and redirect those monies to other viable budgetary issues that may need supplemental resources. Also, the Institute's administration, has afforded us gracious opportunities for support by intensely monitoring the budget and managing effective spending practices among staff members.

### Staffing Update (field and state office):

1.0 FCS Program Leader

1.0 Specialist for Health Disparities and Inequities

1.0 Specialist for Adult and Family Initiatives  
1.0 Agent for Adult and Family Initiatives  
1.0 Agent for EFNEP **\*New; first split position with 4-H YD**  
1.0 Youth EFNEP Paraprofessional  
1.0 Associate for Adult and Family Initiatives **\*New**  
1.0 Associate for FCS Technology Programs  
8.0 FTE

**Pending Hires:**

1.0 Specialist for Nutrition and Health-**Vacant**  
1.0 Agent for Transitional Living Programming-**Vacant**  
1.0 Adult EFNEP Paraprofessional-**Vacant**  
3.0 FTE

**Top 3 Program Highlights of Current Year: (program, collaborators, and impacts)**

**Health Literacy:**

As a result of WVSU's adult health literacy program's success; there was an overwhelming need to develop a youth version. In 2010 an opportunity transpired and WV State University Extension Service (WVSUES) was invited, to become one of few institutions to provide direct service as a collaborator for the USDA NIFA's Extension Military Partnership. WVSUES's proposal was funded and \$250,000 was designated over a 1 year period to work with deployed military families within WV and six other states; to provide them with health history journals and other resources to assist them with keep better records for their family's health care. Also these funds made it possible to finally produce the Birth to 18 Health Literacy program and published journal for *"My Growing Gains and Pains"*.

This opportunity marked the first multi-state FCS partnership for West Virginia State University Extension Service. Participating partner states included- Delaware, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Alabama and West Virginia. It was originally stated that through this collaborative, 300 families would be served and amazingly, 556 families were reached (including 746 children), with 748 face-to-face actual contacts being made. This information was extracted from number of youth and adult journals that were distributed statewide and reported by the partners. In a recent evaluation report for WVSUES, prior to the training; participants in West Virginia, rarely kept personal up-to-date medical records or adequately prepared for doctor's visits. Additionally, data was collected using a 10-item-survey that accessed the level in which military personnel prepare for with their physicians and recordkeeping practices. The results indicate that, prior to participating in the program, 86.8% of parents did not have and organized system for keeping health information for their children; 63.2% did not have a record of their family's history; and 58.8% did not have a prenatal history of their child/children documented. In 2011; the "Can You Repeat That Please?" Program was accepted and officially copyrighted by the Library of Congress number TXu1-764-906. As of 2012, the program is in the planning stages of placed on the eXtension website under their military health component.

## **EFNEP:**

West Virginia State University Extension Service's EFNEP initiative continues growing in the population being reached by these services. To date, the youth component has been provided at 55% of the eligible middle schools in Kanawha County, that have more than 50% of students enrolled, qualifying for free and reduced lunch. In the 2011 Tier Data report, published by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA); there were a total of 339 youth that graduated through the university's EFNEP efforts. Total representation of middle school students served; 37% of the participants resided in suburban communities, while the other 62% consisted of the urban population.

Also in 2011; WVSUES's EFNEP efforts were highlighted in the *1890 Land Grant Institutions* impact publication. This information notes that, in the close of the 2009-2010 academic year, nearly 400 youth had participated in the program. Results indicated that 75% of participants increased fruit consumption and overall knowledge about healthier food choices. Physical activity increased by 20%, time spent watching television decreased by 50%, and 45% reported reading food labels to make better food selections.

In partnership with the Adult EFNEP initiative provided throughout Cabell County; a monthly emergency food pantry and nutrition education program was established, in the western portion of the state. This component was incorporated for families; identified by neighborhood leaders, pastors and the housing authority and designated through a voucher system. The EFNEP Paraprofessional provided USDA commodity foods; as well as produce, dairy and breads donated by local grocery stores. Centi\$ible Nutrition/EFNEP brochures, contact information and flyers with the USDA Dietary Guidelines were distributed; as promotional incentives for recruitment. Also food demos of recipes from the Cent\$ible nutrition cookbook were conducted, in order to teach nutrition education as well as giving supplemental foods to families in need. A total of 322 adults, 118 children were served by the food basket distribution. In sum, a total of 270 individuals were served with non-perishable food giveaways. Altogether, there were 988 youth and adults reported to the USDA as being served through WVSUES's EFNEP delivery.

## **2012 Taste of All:**

For the second consecutive year, West Virginia State University Extension Service was invited to participate in city wide *Festivall* event, in the capitol city of Charleston. This is a weeklong celebration where people come from around the state and its borders; to participate in activities and events that promote community and family time together. FCS staff provides a healthier choice component during the *Taste of All*; where restaurants across the region come to offer innovative food demonstrations to the general public. The FCS Program Area contributes the health component for the event. Educational materials included; recommendations highlighting information on, proper hygiene associated with meal preparation, making economically efficient meal choices, preparing healthy meals and snacks, increasing physical activity and exercise, saving and budgeting when shopping at the grocery store. Additionally, there was a separate demonstration to promote low impact physical activity using the technology and fitness gaming. This opportunity allowed for the enhancement of family time together and the incorporation of physical activity among, adults and youth. Finally, we provided a healthy lifestyle food demonstration and corresponding recipes. More than 250

individuals visited with the FCS staff to receive education regarding, healthier selections that can be made when preparing desserts. The focus of these samples, were to promote individuals to eat and prepare more foods, which encompass a heart healthy lifestyle. Individuals attending the event had opportunities to learn more skills related to health, hygiene, wellness, food preparation, nutrition and increasing physical activity into their daily lives. Collaboration include; the WVSUES; 4-H YD and the ANR Program Areas and the Center for Advancement of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (CASTEM).

### **New or Unique Collaborations and/or Funding Sources:**

#### **PTFI-Pathways To Financial Independence**

In 2011, the FCS Extension Agent was contacted by a representative from Southern University, in regards to WVSU becoming collaborators for a financial Literacy partnership. It was possible through a grant called The Path to Financial Independence (PTFI) Project. This partnership exist among Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs) and Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI's) providing assistance to low and moderate income individuals and families in accessing free income tax preparation, financial education and financial literacy service. The collaboration is led by the Southern University and A&M College (SUBR) Center for Social Research located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. SUBR serves as the grantee and fiscal agent for the Project.

The Path to Financial Independence is a network of minority serving institutions offering educational outreach programs and services integrating Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), education regarding tax credits, and asset building strategies. PTFI addresses systemic education issues affecting low to moderate income residents. PTFI project integrates the (a) Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program; (b) education about the Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, Education Tax Credit, Child and Dependency Tax Credit, Making Work Pay Tax Credit, Tax Credit for the Elderly and Disabled, and other tax credits targeted for low and moderate income taxpayers; and (c) education about asset building programs such as the Individual Development Account and other financial literacy programs or tools designed to enhance the financial quality of life for low to moderate income individuals and families.

WVSU was rewarded \$14,000 from this grant to hire individuals to assist with VITA assistance and the funds may also be used to present and build financial literacy programs. Coordinators are ultimately responsible for the quality of returns completed, the overall flow and process at the tax sites, managing and supporting volunteers and ensuring adequate customer service.

#### **Results from WVSUES Tax Preparation Program:**

- *Average EITC (Earned income tax credit) received: \$1,950.80*
- *Total EITC received: \$68,278.00*
- *Average CTC (Child tax credit): \$24, 683.00*
- *Average AGI (Adjusted Gross Income): \$19,066.26*
- *Total Refund Amount: \$141,220.00*
- *Average Refund Amount: \$2,664.53*

According to last year's VITA Program Evaluation (2011), 100% of the individuals stated that they would come back to West Virginia State to get their tax return prepared.

**Contact for Additional Information:**

Krystal Smith  
Program Leader for Family and Consumer Science  
West Virginia State University Extension  
P.O. Box 1000  
602 A.W. Curtis Complex  
Institute, WV 25112-1000

[smithkr@wvstate.edu](mailto:smithkr@wvstate.edu)

304-766-5723 office  
304-766-4296 fax  
304-552-2598 cell