

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 experienced a shortfall of nearly **\$700,000** in state matching funds, for state land-grant research and extension matching funds. The University is seeking recover this deficit and the previous **\$909,299** that was the reduction from the previous 2012 fiscal year. This would allow the Institute to achieve a substantial cost recovery in order to meet the congressionally mandated 100% match requirement necessary to draw down its federal extension and research formula funding.
- Since 2000, more than \$70 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 from that time, there has been \$32,692,938 in state land-grant funding that has been allocated to WVSU. However, there is a great shortfall of almost \$100M that is needed in the form of external funding, necessary to balance the current fiscal situation. This year, the FCS program are has experience an increase in layoffs but the existing staff continue seeking and developing innovative methods of service and expansion of programming.

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 and Agents have 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 Agent for Adult and Family Initiatives
1.0 Youth EFNEP Paraprofessional
1.0 Adult EFNEP Paraprofessional
1.0 Associate for FCS Technology Programs
6.0 FTE

Pending Hires:

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

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

Helping Our Undergraduates Succeed through Education (HOUSE)/Phase II Programs:

The HOUSE Program consists of two transitional living facilities on the campus of West Virginia State University. HOUSE Phase I serves young adults aged 17-24 deemed “at-risk”, while HOUSE Phase II serves abused and/ or formerly homeless females, including single mothers. The main objective of the HOUSE Program is to provide stability and to teach valuable life skills to its participants to assist them into transitioning to independence to lead successful lives. Even after completion of the program, past participants continue to be offered support to college graduation and beyond. West Virginia State University is the only institution of higher learning in the nation to have transitional living facilities on its campus.

The stability of the HOUSE environment, as well as the intense support and accountability system that is available through the program results in significant improvement in academic achievement of participants. Collaborating with program staff and University offices, participants work to improve their grades and develop sound academic skills. In May 2013, the average GPA for the program was 3.05 on a 4.0 scale. This reflects an increased average GPA of 36.77% from the when participants were first admitted to the program (2.23 avg.).

Of 11 WVSU students participating in the HOUSE programs over the 2012-2013 school year, 8 were successful with securing employment and/or internships, 5 received new scholarships or grants (including one student receiving a full tuition waiver, and another receiving full academic scholarship for graduate school), 3 purchased their first vehicles, 5 obtained substantial tax credits, and 1 quit smoking as a result of the assistance and self-sufficiency skills offered through the HOUSE Program. The Daniel Memorial Independent Living Skills Assessment indicated that participants in the HOUSE Program

achieved a 31% increase in their basic living skills knowledge, and seven out of eleven participants candidly acknowledged that they felt more confident that could successfully live independently.

Serving over 100 individuals in the last 11 years, the HOUSE Programs have seen numerous participants complete the program and continue to graduate from WVSU. Since 2006, HOUSE can boast an overall graduation rate of 50% (WVSU's rate is less than 20%). In the 2012-2013 school years, 4 of the 11 HOUSE participants graduated from WVSU. Of these graduates, two immediately found employment in their fields, and one was accepted to a prestigious graduate program on a full scholarship. The other graduate is actively working towards passing the required testing to become a police officer. The remaining 7 participants are actively working to graduate as they have been able to secure a stable home environment and employment to continue attending WVSU after developing self-sufficiency skills during their tenure at the HOUSE Program.

Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program EFNEP:

West Virginia State University Extension Service's EFNEP initiative continues growing in the population being reached by these services. To date, youth in seven of the 12 eligible middle schools in Kanawha County, which have more than 50% of students enrolled who qualify for free and reduced lunch, have had the opportunity to participate in activities which promote them eating healthier and engaging in physical activity daily. In the 2012 EFNEP Tier Data report, published by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA); there were a total of 583 youth that graduated through the University's EFNEP efforts. There was a 70% percent increase in participant graduation from the previous year in which 339 students graduated in 2011. Dating back to 2010, the amount of youth participants who have graduated has quadrupled. Total representation of middle school students served; 17% of the participants resided in suburban communities, while the other 83% consisted of the urban population. In addition, 53% percent of those students were males and 47% were females.

Also in 2012; through pre-test and post-test surveys, 60% of the participants reported an increase in physical activity. In addition, 62% of the participants reported a positive change in behavior. Changes in behavior refer to the amount of vegetables and fruits eaten, more attention to food labels and healthier food choices. The focus is not only to have the youth eat healthier and participate in physical activity but to also relay the information to their parents, uncles, cousins, etc. to form healthy families. During 2012, WVSUES EFNEP program also extended its programming into Cabell County, which was previously an untapped source of teachers/schools willing and eager for their students to learn more about making healthier lifestyle choices. The participants had the opportunity to learn some of the similar information as previous schools but also were treated to a food demonstration at Huntington's Kitchen, which was featured on the nationally televised "Jamie Oliver Experiment." Stacey Giordano, Health and P.E. teacher at Enslow Middle, who accompanied her students on the field trip said, "The program [EFNEP] was very interesting and filled with knowledge. I even learned some things that I previously didn't know. It was very hands-on. The students enjoyed it and could not wait to return to the next class day."

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 \$16,000 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:

West Virginia state university was ranked 142% in exceeding growth. The highest in the Central Coalition

Total returns: 122

- Single filers: 69
- Married filing jointly : 17
- Married filing separate: 5
- Head of household: 31

- Individuals receiving earned income credit: 44
- Total earned income credit: 83,177
- Average earned income credit: 1,890.39

Total child tax credit: 38,075

Average child tax credit: 1,359.82

Total education credit: 6,451
Average education credit: 716.78

Average adjusted income: 16,564
Average refund: 1,898
Total refund: 21, 4554

New or Unique Collaborations and/or Funding Sources:

Regional/Multistate Food Systems Collaborative:

A regional workshop was hosted at WVSU in partnership with Dr. Karen Ghert (Virginia Cooperative Extension System) and Dr. Laura Stevenson (University of Tennessee). This task group has been formulated to examine and enhance cooperative extension's role in the food system process. This group is examining objectives from a regional standpoint, as it related to extension's contribution, promotion and evaluation of the current food system in those specified states. This collaborative will become a sustainable mechanism of evaluation for FCS's regional contributions to the national priorities, established by NIFA. This structure is also being paralleled to assess the primary indicators for food systems improvement that was established as an action item by the SRPLN for FCS. A follow-up workshop back in WV, is being held in the last week of August 2013; with Dr. Joseph Donaldson (University of Tennessee) and Dr. Laura Downey (Mississippi State University) continuing to serve as the facilitators for this initiative.

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