



Action & Accomplishments

August, 2017



Action Items: Ag. & Natural Resources

- **Background:** To foster and strengthen Extension education programming throughout Southern and North Central regions by promoting multistate cooperation, anticipating emerging program issues and needs, and implementing action processes to address them in a timely manner.
- **Committee Involved:** Agriculture & Natural Resources (ANR)
- **Action Requested:** Support for mission to plan a joint Southern and North Central ANR Program Leaders meeting in 2019 to focus on grant opportunities and extension programming
- **Timeline:** June 2019



Action Items: Ag & Natural Resources

- **Background:** Identify priorities and strategies for ANR core competency trainings
- **Committee Involved:** Ag. & Natural Resources
- **Action Requested:** Seek approval for a pre-PLN conference retreat for ANR-PLN committee to foster multistate engagement to identify and implement foundational professional development training needed by ANR county extension educators across the southern region, to be funded by registration fees.
- **Timeline:** August 2018



Action Items: Community Resource Development

- **Background:** Affirming Harwood's presentation, there is a need to delve deeper into how we address issues in our communities, states and region and the need to be more outward-focused to position us for greater success in the future.
- **Committee Involved:** Community & Resource Development
- **Action Requested:** CRD proposes to take the leadership role in engaging the other committees to develop a concept paper and steps to help position Extension for the future. CRD requests administrative endorsement of this initiative.
- **Timeline:** August-December 2017



Action Items: Communications

- **Background:** ASRED requested the committee develop best management practices for peer-reviewed publications.
- **Committee Involved:** Communications
- **Action Requested:** Review and approval of committee's recommendations for peer-reviewed publication process best practices and peer-reviewer guidelines.
- **Timeline:** Sept. 30, 2017



Action Items: Middle Managers

- **Background:** eXtension (Terry Meisenbach) approached MM Committee to identify a regional topic for an Impact Collaborative.
- **Committee Involved:** Middle Managers
- **Action Requested:** Accept and endorse process for eXtension to work with all committees to identify the priority topics.
- **Timeline:** As determined by ASRED/AEA and eXtension.



Action Items: Program & Staff Development

- **Background:** Concerns about the new federal reporting system not aligned with recommendations from panel of experts as it concerns Extension.
- **Committee Involved:** Program and Staff Development
- **Action Requested:** Request that directors and administrators follow up with USDA-NIFA leadership to resolve the misalignment with expert panel recommendations. Such as: knowledge areas, having to do all reporting of impacts by project, classifications that are research based, expecting county agents to all report.



Timeline: Fall 2017



Accomplishments



Accomplishments: Ag. & Natural Resources

- Held a joint meeting with North Central ANR-PLN held in June 2017.
- Symposium “Helping Southern Farmers Manage Through the Financial Crisis” held Feb 2017 (~70 attendees), 30 authors produced 18 white papers.
- SERA-47 has been established, met several times, and developed and disseminated survey tools.
- Reviewed several state models including the North Central Academy ANR subject matter training and discussed possible joint collaboration.



Accomplishments: Community Resource Development

- 2016-2017 Indicator and Success Report featuring 14 institutions developed and shared.
- Webinar held to share Return on Investment tool used in Kentucky with other states. At least one other institution has adopted this tool.
- Hosted 10 webinars attended by a combined 241 participants.
- Focus groups on child poverty were held across the South.
- SERA-47 was formed with representation from multiple committees, including CRD.
- Survey of SR program leaders conducted to collect information about CRD capacity, funding sources and programs and shared with NIFA National Program Leader.



Accomplishments: Communications

- Completed recommendations for best management practices for peer-reviewed publications and will be submitting them to ASRED for review.
- Developed a curriculum competency outline template for communications and marketing for Extension educators and professionals.
- Explored criteria and gathered examples for a model communication award program that could be implemented by each institution for non-communications professionals.
- At FCS' request gave a presentation to the FCS committee about creating “sticky” messages.
- Completed position paper on the value and impact of integrated strategic communications and will share with ASRED and AEA.



Accomplishments: Family & Consumer Science

- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funded opportunities: University of Tennessee (1862) and University of Maryland Eastern Shore (1890) were selected for the initial rollout of the Culture of Health partnership.
- Health Specialist Meeting at 2016 SR PLN resulted in the following:
 - NIFA grant award, Rural Health and Safety.
 - Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) collaboration (5 states) that submitted a proposal for funding to CDC. The group is awaiting the final decision.
- Developed FCS Messaging Initiative - developing messages tailored to specific audiences. This is a collaboration of the FCS committee with Communications Committee assistance.
- Developed and implemented FCS Capacity Mapping Project



- Worked with ANR and CRD to support Local Food Systems SERA proposal. Delphi Study was completed that identified the top ten issues facing local food systems in the southern region.



Accomplishments: 4H & Youth Development

- Conducted Southern Region Teen Leadership Conference
- Conducted State 4-H Program Leader mentoring
- Conducted National Camp & Environmental Education Institute
- Explored 4-H involvement in multidisciplinary rural childhood poverty issues



Accomplishments: Information Technology

- Collaborated with eXtension's EdTech Learning Network community to develop a comprehensive knowledge base of applied technology solutions with practical application to Extension programming efforts.
- Explored and evaluated professional development opportunities (organizations, conferences) to cultivate and develop Extension IT professionals to meet the growing demands of a dynamic industry and evolving Extension technology landscape.
- Collaborative committee network allowed the surfacing of common issues, including security, infrastructure improvement, service offerings, and provides a responsive environment to seek and receive feedback to benefit represented universities.



Accomplishments: Middle Managers

- MM Newsletter – Published Quarterly. Written by Middle Managers for Middle Managers and others in Extension leadership roles. Posted on SRPLN Website
- 2017 MM Conference – Asheville NC. 67 SRMMs attended, received world-class leadership training from the Center for Creative Leadership. In-depth sharing of State initiatives such as Competencies for CEDs (Georgia); Onboarding and Mentoring (NC and TN), and other state initiatives.
- Completed update of MM Best Practices doc. Updated a key reference for new District Directors.



Accomplishments: Program & Staff Development

- Virtual Summer School: Career Advancement training was held in August 2017. Four webinars with 315 participants from across the nation were conducted. Preliminary evaluation results were positive.
- A Program and Staff Development expertise list was developed and will be posted and linked through the PSD committee resources page.
- A directory of internal Extension leadership programs in the southern region was created and will be posted and linked through the PSD committee resources page.
- Agent core competency comparison chart for southern region was developed to show similarities and differences between states. The core competencies were compared across states as a first step toward collaborating on professional development.

