



SRPLN FCS State Report 2016

Reporting Institution: X 1890

Name of Institution: Tennessee State University (TSU) Cooperative Extension Program (CEP)

Budget Situation: Stable

Staffing Update (field and state office): Stable

How Institution is Addressing the Situation: The current focus for TSU CEP is marketing and branding of our county extension programs to enhance the university and College of Agriculture and Human Sciences recruitment efforts.

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

The Eat, Play and Rest: A Child Care Providers Training on Childhood Obesity. Collaborators: TSU Department of Family and Consumer Sciences Cooperative Extension Program and Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance at TSU (TECTA). This is a three-year project from USDA/NIFA to develop an on-line training program for childcare centers on the three areas that may increase young children's risk of becoming overweight. At the second year the curriculum is still being developed with the addition of a script and voice over and revision of sections of the training. Once this is completed it will be tested to determine if any other changes will be needed.

Nashville CHEW (Children Eating Well) Project was a 5 year integrated project from USDA/ NIFA AFRI. Collaborators: TSU Department of Family and Consumer Sciences Cooperative Extension Program and TSU Center for Prevention Research. The projects' goal was to decrease childhood obesity among limited resource families with children ages 2-4 years by using the socioecological approach. The extension component consisted of 4 areas: 1) to conduct the Nutrition Environment Measure Survey at 19 WIC authorized small-scale grocery stores; 2) develop a technical handbook to assist the 19 WIC authorized small-scale store owners with improving marketing of healthier food items with special attention on fruits and vegetables and low-sugar beverages; 3) conduct food tastings at the 19 WIC authorized stores and 4) train 5 African-American and 5 Hispanic community people to provide nutrition education to WIC eligible families to assist them with making healthier food choices for their family. The results of the project:

1. The NEMS survey did not show significance in improving healthier food availability with using the technical booklet. However, food selections within stores were indigenous to the ethnicity of the community.
2. Over the period of 2013-2015 there was a total of 3,065 people that participated in the food tastings at the 19 small scale grocery stores affiliated with the project. There was a total of 216 contact hours with approximately 110 visits to the stores.
3. The Community Health Promoters over the period of 2013-2015 had 425 contacts (240 African-Americans and 185 Hispanics total contacts respectively).
4. There was a total of 1,723 people that was reached throughout community contacts through community engagement activities within the targeted areas.

A video is available that provides details of the extension component of the project:

www.nashvillechew.org/chew-video.html



Cooperative Extension

U Connect - Minnesota & Tennessee Joint Sustainable Community Project (SCP): U Connect is a joint project with TSU Department of Family and Consumer Sciences Cooperative Extension Program, University of Minnesota and Kentucky State University to address educational disparities among middle school aged youth. In this programming year, sites in MN, TN, and KY began planning and implemented a spring semester pilot of U Connect. Implementation included youth one-on-one and group mentoring using Check and Connect, STEM/science and nutrition programming weekly with youth, and sites facilitated 2-3 parent education sessions. The sites participating in U Connect all have strong ties to the communities. All sites have hired mentors and staff from the community to work with youth/family participants. Sites also solicit feedback and ideas to incorporate into the programming and family engagement aspects of U Connect from the community. Several sites decided to implement 4-H Tech Wizards into the curriculum. Technology based projects and science career exploration has been embedded in weekly programming for all sites. Technology is also used in mentoring (to check grades on school portal sites).

New or Unique Collaborations and/or Funding Sources:

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