

The background of the entire page is a vibrant, high-quality photograph of a rural landscape. On the left side, there are two houses: a white one with a porch and a red one. A large tree is in the foreground. In the background, there are green fields and mountains under a blue sky.

# 2023 NACDEP National Awards



# DIVERSITY

## NACDEP Diversity Award – Team National Winner

### *Growing Local: Northfield Emerging Leaders Team*

- Jocelyn Hernandez-Swanson
- Lisa Hinz
- Mary Ann Hennen
- Scott Chazdon
- Beth Kallestad
- Claudia Garcia

Rural communities need to attract, recruit, and develop emerging leaders, especially from under-represented groups. By focusing on efforts to engage non-traditional leaders in local boards, commissions, and committees, the Growing Local program is taking an innovative, systematic and highly engaged approach to building inclusive leadership.



University of Minnesota Extension  
City of Northfield



# EXCELLENCE IN TEAMWORK



## Excellence in Teamwork

### National Runner-Up

#### *2022 National Rural Grocery Summit*

- Erica Blair
- Rial Carver
- Lauren Fontarum
- Ellie Frayer
- Dave Procter
- Rick Feltenberger
- Molly Hartman
- Marci Penner
- Carly Whorton

The National Rural Grocery Summit is the premier networking and resource-sharing venue for independent grocers and rural food access stakeholders. It brings together people from across the country to learn from and strategize with one another about sustaining rural grocery stores and improving rural access to healthy foods.



Kansas State Research and Extension  
Wichita State University  
Kansas Small Business Development Center  
Reinvestment Fund  
Kansas Sampler Foundation  
Cecil K's Hometown Market



# Excellence in Teamwork

## National Winner

*Helping the smallest communities access critical resources: Nebraska's American Rescue Plan Act-ARPA response effort and follow-up assistance*

- Jenny Nixon
- Amanda Tupper
- Chuck Beck
- Hillary Miracle
- Jordan Rasmussen
- Rex Nelson
- Brian Cox
- Carrie Gottschalk
- Marilyn Schlake
- Shawn Kaskie
- Amy Topp
- Marla Marx
- Jason Tuller
- Lee Will
- Angie Heller

During a peak of the pandemic, many small towns were unaware that American Rescue Plan Act funds were available to their communities. A quickly organized group of Nebraska Educators worked with the State to find and assist 90 communities and secure \$2.2 million to fund community improvement priorities.



University of Nebraska Extension  
Nebraska Department of Administrative Services  
The Nebraska APEX Accelerator  
USDA Rural Development



# EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

## Educational Technology - Individual

### National Winner



*U and I Together Series: Design Your Community*

Melissa Hamilton

Idaho is experiencing tremendous growth and is in need for policies to conserve the rural character of many communities. This video was part of a greater statewide Extension program called the U of I Together Series. It is approachable and demonstrates ways development impacts peoples lives.



University of Idaho Extension





# Educational Technology – Team

## National Runner-Up

### *Developing Leadership Skills Through an Online and In-Person Approach*

- Peyton N. Beattie
- Megan S. Cantrell
- Annie Wallau

The Leadership Skill Enhancement and Employee Development (LSEED) training program is an entry-level, introductory leadership program for county employees not yet in leadership positions. It is an online program with in-person workshops that complement the online component. The LSEED has proved to be favorable among county employees.



UF/IFAS Extension  
University of Florida

# Educational Technology – Team

## National Winner

### *Mapping the diversity of languages spoken in Iowa to improve services*

- Christopher J. Seeger
- Bailey Hanson
- Lisa Bates
- Rakesh Shah

The Iowa Department of Human Rights had a problem: how would the state relay critical information to lowans with limited-English proficiency when it couldn't even locate them? ISU Extension scholars stepped in, translating public data into an accessible dashboard to quickly identify where language resources are needed across the state.



Iowa State University



# EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

## Educational Materials- Individual National Winner



### *Business Transition Models*

Jason Tuller

The Business Transition Models publication was created by Jason Tuller to educate business owners, service providers, and communities about business transition. It provides information about timelines, pros, cons, and has decision tree graphics showing important decision points in the process.



University of Nebraska-Lincoln



## Educational Materials- Individual National Winner



### *Wildlife and Water Habitats 4-H Curriculum*

James Ekins

Many of our communities' natural resources are threatened by pollution and overuse. Education is a key component to water security, habitat conservation, and furthermore community resiliency. The Wildlife and Water Habitat 4-H Curriculum is a peer-reviewed, activity- and place-based curriculum for middle school youth.



University of Idaho Extension





# Educational Materials– Team

## National Runner-Up

### *Marketing Hometown America Curriculum Revision*

- Lynn Adams
- Rani Bhattacharyya
- Cheryl Burkhardt-Kriesel
- Jennifer Hawkins
- Jody Horntvedt
- Neil Linscheid
- Kari O'Neill
- Marilyn Schlake
- Peggy Schlechter
- Jill Sokness
- Mary Thompson



A four-state team of Educators combined their expertise to enhance the Marketing Hometown America curriculum to reflect current demographic trends and assist communities in addressing newcomer recruitment and resident retention. The curriculum now includes a revised Participant Guide, new Conversation Host Workbook, new Educator Training Guide, and online resources.



Iowa State University  
University of Minnesota  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

South Dakota State University  
North Dakota State University

# Educational Materials– Team

## National Runner-Up

### *West Virginia Sustainable Rural Tourism Webinar Series*

- Doug Arbogast
- Daniel Eades
- Ami Cook
- Lauren Weatherford

West Virginia University Extension experts hosted a yearlong monthly webinar series to provide participants with knowledge and resources to incorporate sustainable tourism principles into destination development activities. The sessions cover topics such as destination management; leadership and capacity; using data to make informed decisions; funding, and more.



West Virginia University Extension



# Educational Materials – Team

## National Winner

### *Data for Decision Makers: On-Demand Reports Informing Local Officials*

- Bailey Hanson
- Rakesh Shah
- Sandra Burke
- Christopher Seeger
- Jay Maxwell



Using ACS data, the Extension Data team developed and published nearly 1,400 auto-updating unique reports to aid community planning and local decision-making. Updated annually as new data becomes available, the target audience may utilize the data to inform their understanding of the communities they serve and develop strategic plans.



Iowa State University



# EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING

## Excellence in Community Development Programming - Individual

### National Runner-Up

#### *UF/IFAS Extension Climate Resiliency Program*

Alicia Betancourt



A UF/IFAS Extension climate resiliency program in Florida's Monroe County increases climate-resilient actions by individuals and governments through education outreach and tools to reduce risk. Extension agents provide direct assistance to local governments, allowing Florida cities to develop local solutions resulting in a 35% reduction in flood insurance costs.



University of Florida





# Excellence in Community Development Programming - Individual National Winner

## *Teton Regional Agritourism Research and Development*

Jennifer Werlin



University of Idaho Extension spearheaded research and a “Teton foodshed” agritourism directory to bolster the viability of working farms and local food purchasing options. Using mixed methods research, consumer agritourism interest before and during the COVID-19 pandemic was assessed to leverage and create recommendations for agritourism near Teton Valley, Idaho.



University of Idaho Extension



# Excellence in Community Development Programming - Team

## National Runner-Up

### *Rural Grocery Succession Planning Webinar Series*



- Erica Blair
- Rial Carver
- Duane Johnson
- Karl Lein
- Charlotte Narjes
- David Procter
- Stuart Reid

The Rural Grocery Succession Planning webinar series was created to educate grocers and community leaders on challenges rural grocers face, business transition fundamentals and innovative ownership models. Each webinar highlighted a subject matter expert and a real-world example. The webinar series drew a total of 319 participants across 43 states.



Kansas State Research & Extension  
Iowa State Extension  
Kansas Small Business Development Center  
University of Nebraska Lincoln Extension  
Kansas State University  
Food Co-op Initiative





# Excellence in Community Development Programming - Team

## National Runner-Up

### *Working on Wellness Environments (WOW-E) Youth Summit*

- Jamie Rae Walker
- Valerie Jauregui
- Kelsey Coats
- Jeongseup Lee
- Jacquelyn White
- Emily Gunderson
- Anna Stehling
- Jenna Anding
- Victorino Cantu
- Kailey Strack

The Youth Summit is an interactive and engaging opportunity for youth ages 13-17 in South Texas to adopt Policy, System, and Environment (PSE) work, assess their communities, propose change through appropriate leadership channels, and design a local PSE project focusing on connecting everyday places or improving access to healthy foods.



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension  
Prairie View Cooperative Extension



# Excellence in Community Development Programming - Team

## National Winner

### *Remote Online Initiative*

- Dr. Paul Hill
- Abbey Bean
- Trenton Wilson
- Kaylee Hanks
- Dr. Amanda Ali
- Mike Sarles
- Jake Marino
- Becky Newman
- Dr. Dominic Bria
- Jordan Leonard
- Jacob Webb

Rural areas lack economic diversity and experience high unemployment. The Remote Online Initiative (ROI) program by USU Extension provides specialized training in remote work to increase rural employment and diversify economies. The program aims to increase remote work adoption in urban businesses and the number of rural residents working remotely.



Utah State University Extension



# CROSS-PROGRAM

## Cross Program - Individual National Winner

### *Leadership Development Training Modules for Master Gardener Volunteers*

Kenzie Johnston



Master Gardener Volunteers are enthusiastic volunteers that have opportunities to engage in leadership positions in various capacities. In order to be able to lead committees, projects, or even others, it is important that they receive necessary leadership development training. This project focuses on training and equipping volunteers to lead.



Ohio State University Extension



## Cross Program Award– Team National Runner-Up

### *Financial Literacy Needs & Access Barriers of Latinx Community Members*

- Melinda Grismer
- Kristina Parker
- Luis Santiago
- Emily Witters
- Maomi Bechtold
- Esmeralda Cruz
- Ryan Maluchnik
- Jessica Martini
- Jose “Lupe” Valtierra
- Jennifer Stefancik
- Molly Marshall
- Elisa Worland
- Jane Horner
- Kara Hammes
- Chelsea Brewer

Financial Literacy Needs & Access Barriers of Latinx Community Members is a cross-programmatic team effort of Purdue Cooperative Extension specialists, educators and staff. This project is the team’s innovative approach to addressing a long-standing issue – the lack of financial well-being for Indiana residents whose primary learning language is Spanish.



Purdue University Extension





# Cross Program Award– Team

## National Winner

### *Building Community Resilience: A collaborative approach for improving rural community health*

- Suzanne Cagle
- Melissa Lee



- Kendra Lewis
- Alyssa Lemmermann

Rural communities experience unique challenges and opportunities. Through collaboration between UNHCE teams and partnerships building within communities, this project helped build the skill, capacity, and connections for communities to identify local assets and challenges, prioritize, and act together, building healthier communities for themselves while creating resilience to address future needs.



University of New Hampshire Extension  
Foundation for Healthy Communities



# INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY

## Innovation and Creativity- Individual National Runner-Up



### *Placemaking in Cascade, Idaho*

Melissa Hamilton

Placemaking is an economic development tool that celebrates vibrancy and community pride. The Cascade Arts Walk (CAW) committee launched a successful rural project. The CAW increased vibrancy and supported the City of Cascade's multi-modal transportation plan. The online auction raised \$4,000 supporting public art into the future.



University of Idaho Extension



# Innovation and Creativity- Individual National Winner



## *CED Rural Home Loan Packaging Program*

Natriez Peterson

Low-income rural residents need homeownership opportunities, but traditional mortgage financing is too often out of reach. USDA RD Single Family Direct Loan Program (502 direct loans) is an affordable alternative that provides subsidized mortgage loans for modest homes in rural areas. CED Housing Specialist is a certified packager.



Prairie View A&M University

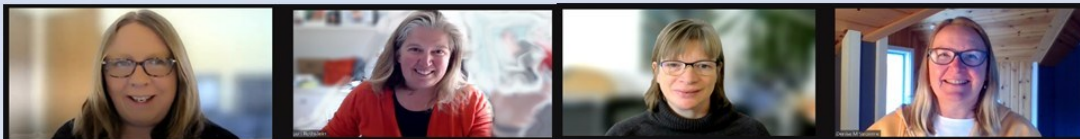


# Innovation and Creativity– Team National Winner

## *The Leadership Refresher Series*

- Christy Kallevig
- Lori Rothstein
- Jan Jackola
- Denise Stromme

The Leadership Refresher Series offers a new way of engaging adult learners and providing concise, online leadership education to support community leaders. Educators use microlearning concepts to offer a program that utilizes five, 30-minute sessions to deliver online leadership education to increase confidence, competence, and connections within their own communities.



University of Minnesota Extension





# CREATIVE EXCELLENCE

## Sponsored by

### NACDEP Creative Excellence Award: Sponsored by JCEP National Winner

#### *Marketing Hometown America: Discovering Ways to Attract Newcomers*

- Lynn Adams
- Mary Weinand
- Jill Sokness
- Jodi Bruns
- Kari O'Neill
- Peggy Schlechter
- Rani Bhattacharyya
- Neil Linscheid
- Jennifer Hawkins
- Jody Horntvedt
- Cheryl Burkhart-Kriesel
- Marilyn Schlake
- John Turack
- Peter Wulfhorst
- Linda Falcone
- Neal Fogle
- Michael Dougherty
- Daniel Eades



Marketing Hometown America is a multi-state program focused on discovering ways to better attract newcomers. Grounded in USDA funded research, Extension professionals translated the findings into a grass-roots community engagement process that not only helps to market and promote the community but it helps to strengthen it as well.

Iowa State University Extension & Outreach  
North Dakota State University Extension  
South Dakota State University Extension  
University of Minnesota Extension  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension  
Pennsylvania State University Extension  
West Virginia State University Extension

# NACDEP Distinguished Awards

## Distinguished National Service Award

National Winner



***Katie McFarland***

Katie has been a member of NACDEP since 2012 and has served on a committee since 2014. She has served as western regional representative for two terms and organized both an online and in person conference. She also led Idaho through the process of becoming NACDEP's 10th state chapter.



University of Idaho Extension



## Distinguished National Service Award

National Winner



***Thomas Blaine***

Communication is the key to success in any organization; NACDEP is no exception. For the past 11 years, Tom Blaine, has served as our newsletter editor, ensuring quality and consistency of messaging. For his perseverance and his unfailing pursuit of editorial excellence, this association owes him a debt of gratitude.



Ohio State University Extension





# Distinguished Career Award

National Runner-Up



*Stacey McCullough*

Dr. Stacey W. McCullough is a dedicated, passionate, results-driven leader committed to the mission of the University of Arkansas, the regional capacity of the Land-Grant mission, and the national potential of collaborative action. Stacey advances community development by investing in people and strengthening their capacity to improve their own well-being.



University of Arkansas



# Distinguished Career Award

National Winner



*John Amrhein*

John Amrhein possesses the entire suite of Extension professional teaching skills, programming results, demeanor, and reputation that distinguish him from colleagues. He is a leader among peers and routinely mentors newer staff being quick to incorporate them in programming. John truly has a distinguished Extension career of nearly 30 years.



Michigan State University Extension







# Congratulations to All Winners

 **NACDEP**  
National Association of Community  
Development Extension Professionals