Extending the Tent: NCRAN's Focus on Aging in the 2020s

Founded in 2016, the North Central Region Aging Network (NCRAN.org) is a collaborative of Extension professionals dedicated to improving the health and well-being of adults in later life through science-based strategies. Recently, with funding from NCRCRD, NCRAN members held a conference and invited representatives from tribal colleges and historically Black universities in the region to develop friendships, learn from each other, and explore possible collaborations. This webinar will describe our past, present, and future efforts to bring aging-related programming to the region and to Extension nationally.

WEBINAR  JANUARY 25, 2023  2:00PM - 3:30PM ET
Rural Broadband Tools and Resources in the NCR

Broadband availability and access continue to be a problem in the United States, especially among rural and tribal communities. Researchers at Michigan State University created a tract-level web application of provision levels in Census tracts across the contiguous United States over a period of several years. Researchers from the Purdue Center for Regional Development will explain the Digital Divide Index (DDI), which is a descriptive tool at the Census tract level (and counties, too) to help community stakeholders better understand their digital divide landscape. Both resources can help users better understand local broadband data.

WEBINAR  February 27, 2023  2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET

NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL CENTER
FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Extending the Tent: NCRAN’s Focus on Aging in the 2020s

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Founded in 2016
Two Goals
Needs Assessment
Virtual Toolkit

ncran.org
NORTH CENTRAL REGION Aging Network

Founded In 2016

NCRAN IMPACTS

Received $24,695 in grant funding from the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development to support the development of the NCRAN website and a tool kit of aging-related programs in the North Central Region.

Collected needs assessment data from 1,428 Extension educators in the North Central Region to identify the status of aging-related Extension programming and perceived current and future community-based needs.

Facilitated 26 multi-state collaborative projects related to development and dissemination of research, curriculum development and delivery, and capacity building of Extension professionals.

Collaborative efforts have included:
- 7 articles published in scholarly journals
- 8 presentations at professional conferences
- 4 publish products, including an info graphic on supporting social connection during COVID-19
- 3 curriculum development initiatives

In 2016, NCRAN ranked third nationally for the award for Excellence In Multi-State Collaboration from the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (NEAFCS).

NCRAN.org Web Reach

- 32 blog posts
- More than 1,500 professionals reached

Developed the NCRAN website to serve as a hub for Extension programs and aging-related resources that have cross-state value.

Hosted 44 professional development webinars for Extension professionals on a variety of aging-related topics.

97% of webinar participants agreed that they learned new information and planned to use it in their professional role.

Based on open-ended comments, webinar participants report learning with a clear plan for concrete actions they will take as a result of what they’ve learned from NCRAN webinars.

NCRAN’s 5-Year Strategic Plan to Enhance Impact and Sustainability

- Continue to expand professional reach through webinars, blogs, and curricula
- Enhance collaborative efforts in scholarship and programming
- Establish strategic efforts to continue improving aging-related Extension initiatives across the region

Spring 2021
Extending the Tent
NCRCRD Small Grant 2022

- **Purpose:** To hold a conference in the center of the region and invite at least one person from each college/university who works in aging, Extension, or the human sciences.
- **Funds covered lodging, food, travel, and conference materials for all participants.**
- **Conference Goal:** Do activities that help us seek understanding, develop friendships, and have opportunities to promote health and wellness.
1. May 2022 – Virtual meeting for Extension professionals from all land-grant colleges and universities in the NCR
3. February 2023 – Virtual follow-up meeting
Future

» 2023 – Marketing campaign
» 2023 – Region-wide needs/interests assessment of aging-related needs
» 2023-2024 – Webinars addressing gaps, needs, interests identified at conference
» Continue to invite and include Extension professionals from Historically Black Universities and Tribal colleges in the NCR
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Join us for our upcoming webinars!
Visit ncran.org/learn

• Extension and the Nutrition and Aging Resource Center - The Two Best Kept Secrets in Aging | February 3rd
• Increasing Social Connection in Wisconsin Through Programming and Partnership | March 3rd
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