



**NORTH CENTRAL  
REGIONAL CENTER**  
FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**NEWS RELEASE**  
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**Contact:** Mary Breidenbach  
mabreide@purdue.edu

## **First North Central Region Extension Collaboration and Implementation Grant Awarded**

(West Lafayette, Ind.). – North Central Regional Center for Rural Development (NCRCRD) is excited to announce the 2023 recipients of the North Central Region (NCR) Extension Collaboration and Implementation Grant.

Introduced for the 2023 grant year, the NCR Extension Collaboration and Implementation Grant incentivizes the implementation of Extension programs available through any of the 34 land-grant institutions in the NCR, in another NCR state where the program is currently not being implemented. This funding is meant to reduce barriers and encourage new collaborations.

**Please join us in congratulating the first recipients of this grant:**

**Principal Investigator:** Eric Smith

**Co-Principal Investigator:** Amber Twitty

**Grant Title:** Growing the Capacity and Resources of Rural Communities

**Organization:** Central State University.

**State:** Ohio

**NCRCRD Priority Area:** Creating Resilient Communities and Economies

“It’s very exciting for us to award this new grant,” shared Maria Marshall, NCRCRD Director. “Encouraging regional collaboration among our land-grant institutions is one of the Center’s primary goals in creating stronger, more resilient rural communities in the North Central region,”

NCRCRD offers multiple types of grants each year to enhance the ability of the North Central region’s thirty-four land-grant institutions to positively influence the quality of life in the region’s rural areas. In addition to the Collaboration and Implementation Grant, NCRCRD also offers Small Grants for Rural Development Research and/or Extension Projects, the NCR 1994 Land Grant Innovation Grant, and funding for Thematic Working Groups.

All submissions are reviewed by the NCRCRD advisory committee and based on their recommendations, the NCRCRD board selects the final recipients. Because NCRCRD receives its core funding from the U. S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA NIFA), the grants are also reviewed and approved by the USDA for consistency with Federal guidelines.

Upon the grant's completion, NCRCRD asks the Principal Investigators of each funded project to share project results or findings with the broader North Central Region and beyond in an NCRCRD-hosted webinar.

NCRCRD list of grants and fellowships:

<https://ncrcrd.ag.purdue.edu/funding-opportunities/grants-and-fellowships/>

NCRCRD webinar series: <https://ncrcrd.ag.purdue.edu/webinars/>

North Central Region's twelve states and its land-grant institutions:

<https://ncrcrd.ag.purdue.edu/who-we-are/land-grant-universities/>

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*The North Central Regional Center for Rural (NCRCRD) is one of four Regional Rural Development Centers in the United States. NCRCRD's work links the research and educational outreach capacity of our region's 34 land-grant universities with our region's communities, local decision-makers, entrepreneurs, families, farmers, and ranchers to help address a wide range of development issues unique to our 12-state region. NCRCRD promotes regional collaboration by elevating the research and extension programs in our region; offering grant opportunities to support new and ongoing regional research, extension, and integrated activities; establishing a North Central Region dataset to encourage regional exploration; and creating networking opportunities through webinars, sponsorships, and making introductions between our partners. For more information, please visit <https://ncrcrd.org/>.*

*NCRCRD receives core funds from the U. S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA NIFA) as well as from the North Central Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NCRA), North Central Cooperatives of Extension Association (NCCEA), and Purdue University, College of Agriculture.*