

FY 13 14 Awards

Grant Archives

Table of Contents

Measuring the Impact of Extension's Web-Based Entrepreneurship Outreach.....	2
Tribal Community Development Projects in the Great Lakes Regions	3
Preparing Communities for Shale Development through Sustainable Planning.....	4
Evaluating Impacts of Natural Resource Development	5
Missouri-Illinois Step Up to Leadership Program Impact Evaluation	6
Elevating and Expanding the Traditional Business Retention & Expansion Program	7
Building Community Capacity through Strategic Planning	8

Measuring the Impact of Extension's Web-Based Entrepreneurship Outreach

May 2, 2014

PI: Reimers-Hild, C. (University of Nebraska-Lincoln)

Co-PIs: Muske, G. (North Dakota State University) and Hancock, C. (University of Nebraska-Lincoln)

Award: \$19,957

Project Abstract: The world continues to evolve at an increasingly rapid pace, and Extension must continue to innovate in order to serve clientele in ways that best support them. This project aims to strengthen Extension's support of entrepreneurs while also determining "best practices" designed to reach business owners with information focused on helping them grow various aspects of their enterprises.

Tribal Community Development Projects in the Great Lakes Regions

April 29, 2014

PI: Proctor, E. (Michigan State University)

Co-PIs: Newman (University of Minnesota), Gauthier, B. (University of Wisconsin)

Awarded: \$3,000

There are 33 federally-recognized tribes in the states of Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. The native population of these states is over 177,000. Based on federal trust responsibilities the Cooperative Extension services of all three states have a responsibility to build relationships and partnerships with the tribal communities that we serve. Community development has been the responsibility of planners and politicians. But in many communities, there is a deep desire for more grass roots involvement in the community development process. How can Extension, do a better job in working with their Native communities and as concerned citizens involve the population in a more meaningful and creative way? This initiative will provide three levels of training on community development; analysis, planning, and implementation. Along with an in-depth study on what Community Development is and isn't about.

Preparing Communities for Shale Development through Sustainable Planning

April 29, 2014

PI: Moss, M. (Ohio State University)

Co-PIs: Olson, D. (South Dakota State University), Bond, C., Romich, E. & Bowen-Ellzey (Ohio State University)

Collaborator: Tweeten, K. (North Dakota State University)

Award: \$19,522

Project Abstract: Rural communities throughout the North Central region are experiencing sudden negative and positive impacts as a result of the shale gas boom. The communities most affected by this wave of energy development are those who are resource rich and prone to the long-term economic fluctuations experienced by natural resource dependent economies. Shale development impacts upon these community's social structure through the influx of new, often temporary workers, challenging existing community dynamics and the ability of existing institutions such as schools and social services to meet increased needs. Economically the impacts include the growing demand for public and private goods and services as well as increasing tax revenues and large sums of money for individual landowners. Environmentally shale development impacts upon land use, agriculture, water, and air quality. Many of the long-range impacts are still being studied. Because shale development influences the social, economic and environmental aspects of each community, the approach to addressing these impacts should be from a perspective of sustainability.

We propose to create educational materials that can be used by local leaders to prepare for and mitigate the immediate impacts of shale development while taking advantage of revenue generation to build long-term community sustainability. Our team will analyze case studies, field research and best practices to develop a comprehensive classroom and web-based curriculum that will then be piloted and evaluated. This curriculum can be used by Extension Educators throughout the North Central Region to help their communities prepare for the impacts of shale development.

Evaluating Impacts of Natural Resource Development

April 29, 2014

PI: Redlin, M. (South Dakota State University)

Co-PIs: Emery, M., Jacquet, J. & Kang, S. (South Dakota State University), Goreham, G. & Tweeten, K. (North Dakota State University)

Award: \$12,500

Project Abstract: New technologies in natural resource industries, most notably hydraulic fracturing (i.e., fracking) but also turbine technologies, have rapidly expanded development of these resources in the North Central region. The impacts emerging from this development have social, economic, and environmental ramifications for both communities and states, and for adjoining states and communities. In response, multiple efforts through universities and extension, industry, non-government organizations and governments seek to address and define both benefits and detriments in these impacts. However, many of these efforts are fragmented, and knowledge gained within and across engaged entities (and within and across regions) is inadequately shared. To address this fragmentation, this proposal seeks to build on current research and extension/outreach partnerships by formalizing an interdisciplinary think tank group dedicated to research of social, economic and environmental sustainability issues and outcomes arising from rapid energy development. Current and proposed members include faculty and extension personnel from SDSU, NDSU, UND, U of WY, Cornell University, and Pennsylvania State University.

Missouri-Illinois Step Up to Leadership Program Impact Evaluation

April 29, 2014

PI: Adams, J. (University of Missouri)

Co-PIs: Majee, W. (University of Missouri), Silvis, A. (University of Illinois) & Donahue, G. (Missouri Association for Community Action)

Awarded: \$19,150

Project Abstract: In the face of growing challenges in rural and inner-city areas of America, policymakers, academics, and practitioners are increasingly advocating for a more homegrown approach that seeks to identify and build upon internal community assets, such as community leadership and entrepreneurship capacity. Through a mixed-method analysis of a community leadership program, this project will assess the impact of the Step Up to Leadership program on participants' leadership skills and how the skills strengthen community economic development. Step Up to Leadership is a University of Missouri Extension developed curriculum used in Missouri and Illinois. Data will be obtained from participant surveys, document review, and in-depth interviews with graduates of the program, facilitators and community members knowledgeable of the leadership program.

Our major goals are to demonstrate that (1) Step Up to Leadership has significant impact on the participants and their communities' socio-economic well-being; and (2) collaborative initiatives between states and organizations hold promise in producing sustainable rural development. Another goal of the project is to use the data to redesign the program to better meet the needs of communities and facilitate collaboration with others states.

Elevating and Expanding the Traditional Business Retention & Expansion Program

April 29, 2014

PI: Bowen-Ellzey, N. (Ohio State University)

Co-PIs: Civittolo, D. (Ohio State University), Hutcheson, S. (Purdue University) and Ladjahasan N. (Iowa State University)

Awarded: \$18,500

Project Abstract: There is widespread recognition that active Business Retention & Expansion (BR&E) programs promote business growth, job creation and healthier economies. BR&E was developed by George Morse in the mid-1980s, and the program has been executed in a multitude of communities throughout the nation. Land Grant Universities within the NCRCD region have led efforts to implement BR&E-related programs and an array of process methods and tools in multiple communities with varying levels of success.

BR&E has been a staple program since its development and a “Signature Program” since 2009 at The Ohio State University. The program contains a packaged curriculum, which includes three workshops, programmatic tools and templates and turn-key software to support a comprehensive BR&E program on a local or regional level. Website and marketing materials have been professionally developed to promote the program. To date, the program has served over 140 communities in 80 of Ohio’s 88 counties. The Ohio team is collaborating with Land Grant Universities in Iowa, Indiana, Minnesota and North Dakota, in addition to the Manufacturing Extension Partnerships, to remodel an older BR&E program by infusing components of complementary business development initiatives, impact analysis, and innovative technology. The revitalized, hybrid BR&E program will include an expanded bank of surveys and questions, updated process and evaluation tools, and development of a new web and mobile application for interactive use by local economic development practitioners. The program will be elevated and expanded for replication throughout the NC region to grow businesses that help grow local economies.

Building Community Capacity through Strategic Planning

April 29, 2014

PI: Silvis, A. (University of Illinois)

Co-PIs: Nesbitt, B. (Ohio State University)

Project Collaborators: Brown, K. (University of Illinois), Davis, G. & Merkowitz, R. (Ohio State University)

Award: \$18,000

Project Abstract: As often happens with widespread implementation, strategic planning practices have become varied and diverse. In addition, little information exists related to evaluation procedures and data collection of the outcomes and impacts of strategic planning. Through a literature review and a survey of practices, this proposed project will examine a variety of questions.

Gaining insight into these questions can help inform an effort to build an assortment of educational materials and evaluation processes related to strategic planning. Once the educational programs and evaluation methods are shared and replicated, impacts throughout the North Central Region can be collected. The data gathered from across the region can be shared with partners, leaders and funders to create a more significant, powerful story about the potential of strategic planning, and perhaps further strengthen Extension's role in empowering communities and organizations.