



**Nevada Association of Counties Meeting
September 25, 2020
Clark County
Extension Director's Report**

Unsolicited Emails Text

Over the past few months you may have received several unsolicited emails regarding Extension. While University policy does not allow for discussion on confidential personnel items, I am available to answer other questions within Extension. As Director of Extension, I have every confidence in the leadership of our Area Directors and leadership team. Extension programs are strong and continue to focus on local issues and needs thanks to our creditable professional faculty and staff.

Medical Assessment

In response to a request by Clark County Commissioner Marilyn Kirkpatrick, Extension is compiling information that will share doctor and medical workforce capacity in Clark County, including what we have currently and what it may look like for the future.

Addressing Youth Needs During COVID-19

Extension is working in partnership with UNR College of Education, Nevada Department of Education, and NACO to develop a plan to address needs for high-quality educational activities and programs to support academics and mental health during COVID-19. To date, activities include cataloging existing UNR resources that can be used by educators, families and youth, as well as collecting data to assess needs, current best practices, challenges and opportunities to inform how higher education, pre-K through 12 and communities can work together to address the needs.

4-H Enhancement Request

The Board of Regents did not include the Extension 4-H Enhancement Request in its 2021 and 2022 budget request. The request, less than \$5 million, focused on youth development for each county in Nevada. Although the request was not included, Extension will continue to make youth and workforce development a core focus. Nevada's investment in these two issues will pay for itself many times over.

Natural Resource Education for Nevada Youth

A priority goal of mine, as Extension Director, is to expose every 5th grader in the state to Nevada natural resources. In addition to the 4-H Enhancement Request, the following initiatives would be pivotal for this goal:

- Enhance State 4-H Camp at Lake Tahoe
- Develop a 4-H Camp in Southern Nevada
- Establish a state Advisory Council on Natural Resources
- Continue to work in partnership with agencies and organizations

- Link workforce development initiatives for Natural Resources

Congressional App Challenge

In collaboration with the annual [U.S. House of Representatives Congressional App Challenge](#), Extension partnered with the Congressional offices of Congresswoman Dina Titus, Congressman Steven Horsford, and Congresswoman Susie Lee to offer [virtual coding workshops](#) in August and September. Extension staff led these webinars for middle and high school students, facilitating a brainstorm session on identifying a societal problem that could be addressed through app development. Students learned information on various free open-source app creation platforms and practiced within an app platform to begin the process of developing their own app.

Workforce Development

Extension will be strengthening its Community and Economic Development program to address unmet needs, while being cognizant to not duplicate other state agency efforts. Over the next year, Extension will be developing a strategic plan and adding a new faculty position to focus on urban workforce development.

Domestic Violence

Building on existing strategic partnerships and targeted research, Extension developed a multi-faceted systems approach in partnership with the Attorney General's Office and Clark County to reduce the prevalence of domestic violence and homicide; improve victims' health, well-being and interactions with their children; reduce revictimization and recidivism; improve offender outcomes; and break the cycle of violence in Nevada.

The proposed program includes four primary components including a Gap Analysis, Law Enforcement Training, implementation of the High-Risk Team Model and expansion of Family Violence Prevention Programming. The program is estimated at \$7.6 million over a 3-year period for implementation in every county in the state. We are currently working to secure funds to implement this comprehensive, systems-based approach across the state.

Master Gardener Changes

Extension is developing a Master Gardener Program that can be delivered in an online format. This will allow expansion of our consumer horticulture education programming to citizens in every county in the state. The multi-tiered program will include 12 classes open to the public on topics such as soil, water management, fertilizers and plant nutrition, native plants, vegetables, container gardening, herbaceous annuals, houseplants, and common trees and shrubs.

The second level of the program is for citizens with a desire to become certified Master Gardener volunteers and deliver research-based horticulture education to the public throughout the state. There are 18 online workshops on more advanced topics to include, among others, plant taxonomy, IPM and pesticide safety, insect identification, insect and vertebrate pest management, diseases in the landscape, noxious and nuisance weeds, plant propagation, hydroponics, palms, turf grasses, cacti, succulents, and diagnostic skills.

Great Basin Research & Extension Center (Eureka County)

With support from the Extension Director, the College has recently launched the Great Basin Research and Extension Center in Eureka County. Drawing heavily on reinvested Extension funds, this new center will address the related issues of sustainable grazing management of dryland rangelands, livestock, crop production under water-limited environments, and alternative water and irrigation strategies for crop production. This [article](#) shares more information on this partnership endeavor.

Information Technology Grant to Strengthen Counties

Extension was recently awarded the USDA Rural Utilities Service-Distance Learning and Telemedicine (RUS-DLT) grant in the amount of \$513,706. This grant will be used to upgrade distance learning technology infrastructure and provide equipment to increase capacity in 18 of our Nevada Extension offices. These 18 sites will receive network equipment upgrades, and 17 will receive high-definition codecs that will allow video, audio and interactive content

collaboration. The project will overcome the identified challenges by providing rural residents with additional educational opportunities addressing critical community needs through trainings, classes and workshops that would otherwise not be available in these communities.

Volunteer Development Position

Extension welcomed Cheryl Coleman as the Extension Volunteer Development Coordinator on September 14. This position will significantly enhance and innovate volunteer management systems and policies that will increase Extension's capacity to develop, deliver and assess high quality programs.

4-H Livestock

We have established a committee of Extension staff working on 4-H livestock issues in the state of Nevada. Committee recommendations should be released soon, and I would hope each county will be able to buy in and support these recommendations.

Climate strategy

Governor Sisolak issued [Executive Order 2019-2022](#) in November 2019 to develop a State Climate Strategy by December 2020. The 2020 Climate Strategy will provide a framework designed to evaluate the alignment of policies with the timelines and benchmarks necessary for Nevada to achieve its greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. This effort is led by Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Governor's Office of Energy. Steph McAfee, State Climatologist and Associate Professor in Geography and Extension, and others will be involved as this initiative develops.

Horticulture Research & Extension Center (Long-Term)

A goal of Extension is to establish a Research and Extension Center in Clark County. There is significant work being done at the Research Center and Demonstration Orchard in North Las Vegas. Experiment Station Director Chris Pritsos will be investing in expanded Horticulture research and Extension will be bringing on a faculty position in Horticulture.

Equine Center (Long-Term)

Extension would like to establish an Equine Education Center, in partnership with Clark County Commissioners, over time. There are over 50,000 domestic horses in Nevada, and a youth education program could be significant for the youth and our state. A first step would be to bring someone on board that could lead this effort for Extension.