

Michigan State University Extension

Extension Educator - Community Food Systems/Community & Economic Development Mason, MI with programming responsibilities across Mid-Michigan

As a community food systems/community & economic development extension educator, this position seeks to build local capacity and enhance community participation on local food, community development and community vitality issues. Target audiences for education and capacity-building programs include local government officials, public officials, local leaders, small businesses and industries, local and regional food providers, marketers and distributors, community-based organizations and the general public.

Educational programs addressing community needs and local food opportunities may include establishing and working closely with local food policy councils, local leadership trainings, data-supported regional economic development education, local and regional food production system trainings, and community planning.

Responsibilities include:

- Develop, conduct and evaluate innovative educational programs based on current and projected community needs within south-central Michigan.
- Assist in the development and growth of local food systems in MSUE's District 8 & 12, and the integration of Michigan's Good Food Charter.
- Assist in facilitating local and regional efforts that advance a "healthy community" agenda.
- Work with local and regional change efforts, including data-supported strategic planning and decision making to enhance community vitality.
- Assist in strategic planning and facilitation related to local and regional community and economic development efforts.
- Assist with coordination and delivery of the Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities annual conference.
- Fully participate in the Greening Michigan Institute's Community Food System meetings, trainings and other activities. Engage with other MSUE work teams, as appropriate.
- Author educational materials on topics related to local foods, including mass media articles, fact sheets and/or Extension Bulletins.
- Maintain regular communications with appropriate local and regional food system players and community development organizations.
- Support and promote an inclusive locally-based approach to education and outreach and encourages local participation and is aimed at building community-level capacity and empowering all interests.
- Design, coordinate, support and/or teach educational programs of benefit to local and regional decision-makers, including:
 - Delivery of local, regional and statewide workshops, as well as workshops via distance technology (as appropriate) including statewide teleconferences, webinars and produced videotaped programs.
 - Work with local community and economic development and local food non-profits to provide education to advance their agenda.
 - Represent Michigan State University in teams and with outside partners and/or agencies including teams that arise as a result of emerging needs and issues over time.
- Write grants, generate revenue and establish partnerships that leverage public, private and not-for-profit funds in ways consistent with MSU Extension policies, and which foster effective programming.
- Develop and follow a personal plan for professional development consistent with personal and organizational goals, participate in staff meetings and other program activities as appropriate and needed.
- Gather and report programming outputs and impacts, to demonstrate program effectiveness and to guide future program priorities for MSUE, the Greening Michigan Institute and the appropriate work group(s).

- Other duties or projects as assigned by the Institute Director.

Qualifications:

- Master's Degree in community sustainability, urban and regional planning, community and/or economic development, agricultural economics, sociology/rural sociology, and/or related field.
- Knowledge of local food system and/or economic, community and/or regional development theories and practices.
- Strong interpersonal, oral and written communication skills;
- Experience and proven ability working productively with a team;
- Proficiency in use of technology (e.g. web research, Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook for mail/calendaring, distance technology, etc.) for day-to-day work and educational program delivery, record keeping, reporting, team-based communications and overall management;
- Demonstrated success in program development and delivery to diverse audiences/communities including but not limited to race, gender, socioeconomic class, disabilities and other differences;
- Proven ability in establishing and working with a diverse network of constituents and community members across race, gender, socioeconomic class, disabilities and other differences to assist with program development and outreach;
- Ability to lift and carry educational materials, equipment, etc. up to 25 lbs;
- Ability to regularly travel within the assigned area and surrounding communities, as well as occasional travel outside the assigned area in order to perform duties of this position.

Application Process:

Interested and qualified candidates should visit the Michigan State University jobs page at www.jobs.msu.edu and search for posting #4744 to apply.

Applicants are asked to submit an up-to-date resume/CV and a cover letter that includes the names and email addresses of four professional references. Applications currently being accepted through March 17, 2017.

This is a full-time, fixed-term position reviewed annually for renewal.