

## **2015 NACDEP Conference Evaluation**

### **What part of the conference was most valuable to you? Why?**

- Networking! It was exciting to see so many people with similar interests
- The concurrent sessions
- Presentations and time to network
- Networking and seeing what other states are doing
- Networking to make connections and learn of other programs, efforts, resources, etc.
- Just the right amount of networking time built into the schedule
- Federal panel – chance to hear from and meet government officials and learn about collaborative opportunities
- Opportunities to interact with peers following sessions/meetings. These allowed me to go deeper, share ideas, get feedback from others interested in same topics. Realistically, I won't be able to follow up (and if I do, it won't be as rich) when I'm back at work
- I enjoyed the workshop on the move best. I took the bike tour and completely enjoyed seeing what the presenters talked about hands-on.
- New knowledge/networking
- All the networking opportunities > newcomer/welcome reception, fun night, tour, poster session
- Networking, concurrent work sessions
- Concurrent sessions because of new ideas, practices, and networking with colleagues doing similar subject matter. Local government track!
- A number of the sessions were great. However, for me, the networking was very important.
- Concurrent sessions
- Sessions – got to see what other states are doing
- Sessions
- Networking opportunities... share/learn new ideas
- The opportunity to give a presentation. Highly valued by my university.
- The opportunity to network at poster session and informally.
- Increased smaller group interactions. That's where connections are made.
- Best local government track I've ever been part of at a conference! Excellent presentations and dialogue!
- New ideas via sessions – great presentations and loved mobile workshops
- The dancing/singing on first night – nice addition
- Take home tools to put to work right away
- Engaging Voters: Ballot Issue Education
- Concurrent sessions – more detail about several CD programs

### **What suggestions do you have for improving the conference?**

- Ensure workshops are workshops and not just crammed in PowerPoint presentations
- During the lunch on day one, do not have multiple speakers. Would like to network with colleagues I never see.
- 5 minute videos of great work shown during meals – breakfast?
- Clearer session names/titles – I understand categories but a lot of time does not fit
- More time for roundtable topic discussions
- It's hard to do this with "only" 150 attendees, but it would be nice to have more subject specific tracks like this year's local government track
- Separate the federal panel from the business meeting to allow a stand-alone, longer opportunity to present/engage

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### **What suggestions do you have for improving the conference? (continued)**

- Take down the number of sessions. Way too much info! Can't absorb it all. – Allow more time for informal/unstructured interaction
- No suggestions to improve. It is good as it is. Nice mix of network time, class time, and meal time.
- Keep same
- Incorporate physical activity opportunities
- Ensure mobile workshops include CED. The 1890 was very weak in that regard.
- Try to increase attendance perhaps through more promotion and presentations. Make sure, however, that presenters leave time for Q&A.
- This was a great conference!
- Good job!
- Reducing registration fee
- Offer option to share session content 'preview' prior to conference – make for more time in dialogue
- Investigate ideas for including retirees? i.e. "retiree track"? Investigate ideas that appeal to younger, newer members.
- Tell us we won't be getting a conference bag so we can bring one. Longer-term skill-building workshops. No tours.
- Provide time when Regional Reps are "off duty" for members to connect with them. My rep always seemed to be meeting or leading.
- Keep this format!
- Great! Maybe make space larger for mingling between posters at poster sessions – kind of tight
- Keep mobile tours mid-conference. 45 minute sessions were nice. Maybe some high-quality 90 minute workshops on last day – on topics people really care about, e.g. the USDA panel?
- Food was par – Gluten free doesn't mean meat/protein free – box lunch was horrible
- Don't change a thing.
- Buzz session. - -give more time to discuss before you break into tables

### **What future topics would you like to have discussed/learn more about?**

- Really define what extension community development is all about. Would help strengthen or position "it" in Extension for the future
- Resiliency – not related to climate
- Technology – the benefits – use and teaching people who do not have as much experience
- More on health and infrastructure
- County consolidation – initiating the conversation; examples, ramifications.
- Reaching diverse and underserved audiences to identify new and aspiring leaders
- Climate change/weather variability, cultivating CED leadership within Extension – opportunities that exist, and getting administration support for it
- Did a nice job covering a wide variety of topics. No suggestions at this time.
- Foundations
- Not sure. I like the variety.
- Continue local government track.
- Community-owned enterprise development
- Mix of what usually have

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### **What future topics would you like to have discussed/learn more about? (continued)**

- Urban, suburban, rural...
- More time with the federal partners to share/learn. Program leader/administrator (current/aspiring) track with focus on organizational development, interstate sharing/collaboration, etc.
- More ways to document \$ impacts of Extension programming. More on evaluation – how to evaluate based on the info you need.
- The mix offered by this conference was good, inclusive of all we do
- Tracking, measuring growth of social capital and resulting impact. Measuring and growing community readiness.
- I've learned a lot from each other's successes. Many of the lessons come from one type of program and inspire improvement in other types of programs. I'm hoping to be ready to present in the next couple years on my work on components of extraordinary governance.
- Climate change impacts and prep/resilience of communities
- Working with county government, education systems, and city councils
- SARE Grant Workshop
- Developing urban Extension programs

### **What do you value most about NACDEP?**

- The people!
- Getting together with colleagues who do what I do
- Connections, learning, national perspective
- The people
- Networking
- Networking, sharing resources
- Professional development, networking, board leadership, welcoming atmosphere, member profile database, Stacey's [McCullough] smile ☺
- Interacting with colleagues from across the nation
- The people and diversity of program experiences.
- Networking
- Ability to share with colleagues and learn from them
- Opportunity to hear about what others are doing
- Collaboration with Extension peers.
- Connections with colleagues.
- Networking
- Conferences
- People
- Source of community/ collegiality/ friendship/ trust/ optimism. Dedication of its members and leaders to serving!
- Opportunity for national leadership, engagement, awards and presentations
- Opportunity to learn and share programming other places – in many states (mine included) we have lost significant Extension faculty.
- Networks, finding others doing same work
- Incredible forward-thinking people with a passion for sharing and working together to provide real public value.

## **2015 NACDEP Conference Evaluation**

### **What do you value most about NACDEP? (continued)**

- People! Good community of smart, innovate folks!
- Professional development and networking. Learning about things – new.
- Diversity of programs
- Its youth.
- The networking and new ideas from creative people

### **What suggestions do you have for improving NACDEP?**

- Conduct outside the conference a “study circle” type of process – practice what we talk – with ourselves to position.
  - Young/new staff
  - Current
  - Veteran/out-going staff to see how the association could better meet the needs of young/new staff vs. veterans
  - When the conference is in a border state, invite the Canadian provinces nearby – for Vermont > Quebec, Ontario, N.B. If Montana, the western provinces.
  - Consider having Ignite or lightning sessions at the top of the program – first night. If folks from D.C. are going to talk, have it be more than vague words.
- You did great! Thank you!
- Make a marketing effort to include all community economic development people. Or, at least try to identify them. There is no effort by the RRDCs to do this, so NACDEP could be a valuable resource in this area.
- Sponsoring 1890s/1994s/HSIs liaison roles with conference attendance/travel stipends – this may be a good angle the new development team can use to solicit financial support
- The overlap between NACDEP, RRDCs, Program Leadership Network (for South Region) is nearly 100%. Being away from campus for multiple meetings mean work in my state not getting done – need to reduce redundancy and/or draw clearer lines to give meetings more purpose/ make them more productive
- None at this time.
- Keep everything
- Keep networking going year round
- Connectivity with other organizations.
- Have board training for Board
- National partners or panel, similar to Federal
- Maybe try more of the Ignite sessions in place of the longer, more formal presentation sessions. Loved the fast pace and informative nature of them!
- Stronger/ more state-level associations
- Potentially, a “virtual conference” sometime during the year with an interesting speaker – budgets and schedules sometimes preclude our attending the physical conference.
- Consider offering a reduced membership rate for county staff
- Continue to encourage, value, and support the contributions of our younger members.
- Scholarships and outreach to young professionals/ millennials. Need to get conversations/ sharing going through our website: committees, regions, areas of expertise.
- For the awards segment, read the title and winner. We can read their info.
- Do not have state chapters.

## 2015 NACDEP Conference Evaluation

### What suggestions do you have for improving NACDEP? (continued)

- Name and contact list of participants at beginning or end of conference

### Additional Comments on Evaluation

- Conference was nice. A nice mix of speakers and topics. Lots of difference classes to choose from. The food was good! I appreciated the nice breakfasts! Conference seemed well-organized and ran smoothly.
- Cool Ignite session
- Good food! Thanks!

### How would you rate this conference overall?

- |       |       |       |       |     |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| • 4   | • 5   | • 5   | • 5   | • 5 |
| • 4   | • 4   | • 3.5 | • 5   | • 5 |
| • 5   | • 4   | • 5   | • 5   | • 5 |
| • 4.5 | • 3   | • 5   | • 3.5 | • 5 |
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Average: **4.54**