

2025 NACDEP National Awards



NACDEP

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
EXTENSION PROFESSIONALS



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Extension Service



COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NeighborWorks®

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**NORTH CENTRAL
REGIONAL CENTER
FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT**



Extension - Community
Development



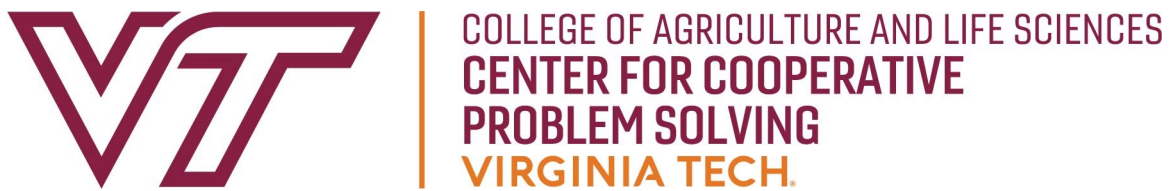
SILVER



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES
CENTER FOR COOPERATIVE
PROBLEM SOLVING
VIRGINIA TECH.

BRONZE





Extension - Community Development

Congratulations to our 2025 Retirees!



NACDEP

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
EXTENSION PROFESSIONALS

DIVERSITY

NACDEP Diversity Award – Team

National Runner-Up

VCE Equips Community-Based Personnel to Make Space for Neurodiversity

James Mason

Thomas Bolles

Jeanell Smith

Katie Tennant

Crystal Tyler-Mackey

Bill Worrill

VCE fellows delivered a professional development series on neurodiversity that significantly contributed to improved neurodiversity in community programs by fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of neurodiverse individuals, as well as tools and strategies to support inclusive practices and policies.



Virginia Cooperative Extension



NACDEP Diversity Award – Team

National Winner

Engaging Underserved Students to Pilot Marine Debris Removal Devices

Jill Bartolotta

Abigail Comar

Scott Hardy

Beach and On-water Trash Trapping Tech Team for Lake Erie (BOTtttle) is a partnership with Ohio Sea Grant and Cuyahoga Community College's Youth Technology Academy to provide environmental education and workforce development opportunities for underserved and underrepresented youth from Cleveland, Ohio.



Ohio State University Extension



EXCELLENCE IN TEAMWORK

Excellence in Teamwork

National Runner-Up

Purdue Extension's Community Leadership Program

Cindy Barber	Patty Keating	Kym Schwinkendorf
Ed Farris	Tamara Ogle	Tonya Short
Tanya Hall	Jessica Outcalt	Kristi Whitacre
Nick Held	Kris Parker	Steve Yoder

Purdue Extension launched a new version of its successful Community Leadership Program in 2024. The core team worked together for 3 years to overhaul the program, including publishing a peer-reviewed curriculum, conducting train-the-trainers involving 41 staff across program areas, and piloting the program in six counties.



Purdue University Extension



Excellence in Teamwork

National Winner

Remote Online Initiative (ROI) - National Affiliate Program

Dominic Bria	Becky Newman	Jose Valtierra	Marta Nelsen	Tanya Hall
Paul Hill	Eric Aikens	Kenna Sanders	Melinda Grismer	Tara Mastel
Abbey Bean	Genesis Schaerrer	Kathryn Leach	Mike Sarles	Trenton Willson
Amanda Ali	Jacob Webb	Katie Christensen	Monica Hampton	
Amber Smyer	Jake Marino	Kayla Wells	Ron Wilson	
Annette Mutenyo	Jodi Bruns	Kaylee Hanks	Stacyann Maxwell	
Austin Holmes	Jordan Leonard	Kenneth Sherin	Stephanie Guyton	

The Remote Online Initiative (ROI) National Affiliate Program is a multi-state collaboration involving 8 land grant universities. By delivering specialized remote work training, mentorship, and certifications, the program connects rural talent with high-wage opportunities, redefining workforce development across the country.



Utah State University Extension



EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Educational Technology – Individual

National Winner

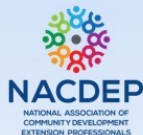
AI-Powered Agritourism Toolkit



Xue (Alice) Dong

Colorado State University Extension

The AI-Powered Agritourism Toolkit is a web application using AI and Machine Learning to address agritourism challenges. It features a chatbot and 5 modules offering marketing, risk management, and sustainability insights. Applied to a Colorado ranch, it empowers rural communities to solve problems and boost revenue.



NACDEP Educational Technology Award– Team

National Runner-Up

Grow Your Facilitation Skills Course

Kim Guenther

Lisa Hinz

Jody Horntvedt

Grow Your Facilitation Skills is a four-session course that builds on the previous sessions content and engages learners with tools and perspectives for facilitating in-person and on-line meetings. The sessions are conducted via Zoom, using various engagement tools that mirror in-person facilitation techniques.



University of Minnesota Extension



EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

NACDEP Educational Technology Award– Team National Winner

UNL Extension Grocery Cooperative Business Planner Tool

Cindy Houlden

Charlotte Narjes

Jason Tuller

The Grocery Cooperative Business Planner Tool was designed to help those unfamiliar with the grocery industry to make the best decisions. The Grocery Cooperative Business Planner consists of two Excel files and six videos explaining how to use these spreadsheets.



University of Nebraska-Lincoln



EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

Educational Materials- Individual

National Winner

"Protecting the Source"
Water Educational Videos



James Ekins

University of Idaho

A recent needs assessment by U-Idaho Ext Water Outreach and Boise State U found large knowledge gaps about groundwater and preventing drinking water from contamination. In response, Extension Water Outreach produced two educational videos to teach the basics of these knowledge gaps.



EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

Educational Materials– Team

National Winner

Dollar Bill Tool: How Does Your City Invest \$1 in Revenues?

Bailey Hanson

Erin Mullenix

The Dollar Bill Tool developed by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach in partnership with the Iowa League of Cities, simplifies city budgets into a clear graphic. By showing how each dollar is spent in Iowa's cities, it enhances transparency, facilitates discussions, and empowers leaders to make informed decisions.



Iowa State University



EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING

Excellence in Community Development Programming - Individual

National Winner

Developing a 10-Year Strategy for Maine's Outdoor Recreation Economy



Jason Entsminger

University of Maine

In 2024, Dr. Jason Entsminger, collaborated with key industry and governmental partners, developing a 10-year strategic plan for the state's outdoor recreation industry. The project partners engaged more than 200 Mainers through interviews, focus groups, and community. Research and classroom education were integrated, too.



EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING

Excellence in Community Development Programming - Individual

National Winner

Tackling the Housing Crisis Together the Extension Way



Omar Padilla

Iowa State University

The Rural Housing Readiness Assessment (RHRA) helps to combat Iowa's housing crisis by working alongside residents to understand their unique housing needs and develop action plans to prepare each community to attract housing development and spur existing-housing improvement through program and policy development.



Excellence in Community Development Programming - Team

National Runner-Up

Leading Economic Transformation

John Bennett

Brigid Tuck

Jody Horntvedt

Ellen Wolter

Leading Economic Transformation (LET) is an innovative program designed to equip local government officials and economic development professionals in strategic economic development, adaptive leadership, and systems thinking for community change as they navigate complex economic challenges.



University of Minnesota Extension



EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING

Excellence in Community Development Programming - Team

National Winner

Coaching Communities to Thrive for Rural Entrepreneurship Development

Travis Barker

Doris Lux

Sandra Barrera

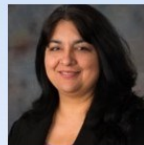
Jason Tuller

Shawn Kaskie

The Nebraska Entrepreneurial Communities-eCommunities program helped 220 businesses, creating 70+ jobs and \$16M in investments in 25 areas with population decline. It used a coaching-based system with local economic developers. Initially funded by the EDA CARES Act and USDA Rural Development, it is now self-sustaining.



University of Nebraska-Extension



CROSS-PROGRAM

Cross Program Award– Team

National Runner-Up

Intergenerational Living: The Ridgway and Freeport Pilot Projects

Chi Catalone

Matt Kaplan

Robert Dickinson

John Turack

Cheyenne Filous

This Intergenerational Living initiative bridged generational gaps via intergenerational practices and community engagement. Cross-program teams incorporated voices from all age groups, identified local issues, brainstormed solutions, and facilitated collaborative projects, fostering idea exchange and improved community.



Penn State Extension



CROSS-PROGRAM

Cross Program Award– Team

National Winner

Raising Communities, Raising Kids: A Nebraska Childcare Collaboration

Marti Beard

Jamie Bright

Lynn DeVries

Jaci Foged

Holly Hatton-Bowers

Katie Kruse

Ingrid Lindal Chavarria

Emily Manning

Charlotte Narjes

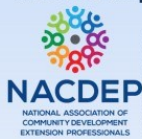
Jordan Rasmussen

Jackie Steffen

LaDonna Werth

Tasha Wulf

Nebraska Extension and Communities for Kids strengthen the early childhood care landscape by fostering collaboration, providing professional development, and supporting sustainable, localized childcare solutions. This initiative boosts community well-being, economic growth, and leadership, ensuring Nebraska families thrive. **University of Nebraska-Lincoln**



INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY

Innovation and Creativity- Individual

National Winner

Cut Flower Discussion Group



Erin Small

Virginia Tech

In 2022, floriculture ranked as Virginia's 9th top farm commodity generating over 143 million dollars, with cut flowers being the key segment of that market. The cut flower discussion group was established to address the need for connectivity and education within the floriculture industry.



INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY

Innovation and Creativity- Team

National Runner-Up

Wind Energy End-of-Service Listening Sessions

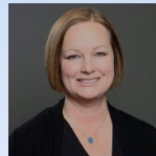
Tamara Ogle

Marty Huseman

Kara Salazar

Jon Charlesworth

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory partnered with Purdue Extension, leveraging Extension's community connections and facilitation expertise to hold listening sessions for FFA and community members in White and Benton counties for a needs assessment for wind energy end-of-service activities.



Purdue University



Innovation and Creativity– Team

National Winner

The Gateway and Natural Amenity Region (GNAR) Initiative

Utah State University

Jake Powell

Jordan Smith

Elizabeth Sodja

University of Utah

Jordan Katcher

Danya Rumore

The Gateway and Natural Amenity Region (GNAR) Initiative is a cross-university, cross-discipline collaboration that develops and shares resources, research, training, and peer-to-peer connections to help vulnerable gateway communities thrive amid challenge and change.



NACDEP Distinguished Awards

Achievement in Collaboration National Runner-Up



Paul Hill

Utah State University

An effective collaborator, Dr. Paul Hill directs the ROI Affiliate Program to address rural unemployment with remote work training & business growth through e-commerce mentoring. ROI has enrolled 2,871 participants in 39 states with an 89% completion rate, facilitating 613 job placements in collaboration with 10 LGUs.



Achievement in Collaboration



Michael Wilcox

Purdue University

Dr. Michael Wilcox exemplifies cross-institutional collaboration through his leadership in partnerships, program development, and national and regional initiatives. His career embodies the spirit of this award as someone widely and relentlessly known for fostering professional, programmatic, and personal connections.



NACDEP Distinguished Awards

Distinguished Career Award



Greg Davis

Ohio State University

Greg began his Extension career in Fulton County, Ohio, in 1996. Now a professor, endowed chair, and past state CD leader, Greg exemplifies the values and mission of the Extension program. His work in leadership development has had a national impact, showcasing how dedication and passion can positively affect communities.



Distinguished Career Award



Michael Dougherty

West Virginia University

Dr. Michael Dougherty is a dedicated educator and leader. His career has impacted community development across West Virginia and the profession through leadership, innovative programs, and scholarship. His work empowers future leaders, and enhances governance, planning, economic growth, and quality of life.



Congratulations Award Winners



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