

Extension educators are responsive to community events and in May of 2020 the nation was mourning the death and murder of George Floyd. Extension educator, Melissa Hamilton responded to her rural Idaho community by offering a Diversity Learning circle. She partnered with a local faith leader, Jon Umbdenstock, with the New Meadows Methodist Church to develop and provide virtual discussions two times per month over a six-month period. The DLC challenged participants to explore implicit bias and increase their racial understanding in their community and across the nation. The DLC challenged participants to be intentional about being anti-racist in a world where implicit bias and racism is integrated throughout society. The DLC led six months of facilitated conversations engaging rural citizens in relevant and current civil discussions. The program utilized the following curriculum sources including Coming Together for Racial Understanding open-source content, Justice in June, book review, and special guest interviews.

You can learn more about the program details on the NACDEP You Tube channel here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1jltDjgOlrE>

And reviewing the University of Idaho Impact Statement:  
<https://www.uidaho.edu/-/media/UIDaho-Responsive/Files/Extension/admin/Impacts/2021/26-21-mhamilton-diversity.pdf>