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BUILDING CAPACITY IN ENVIRONMENTAL DECISION-MAKING: THE NATURAL RESOURCES LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Mary Lou Addor*

ABSTRACT:

Managerial approaches are not always effective in responding to complex environmental and often contentious issues associated with shaping how communities manage and protect the environment. Because of the scope and complexity of managing natural resources, stakeholder engagement can be crucial to strengthen and build the capacity for effective environmental decision-making. Building this capacity requires development of skills and knowledge, management of resources and information, and fostering a network of relationships and responsibilities. The presentation will explore the opportunities for building capacity in environmental decision-making. The Natural Resources Leadership Institute (NRLI) model is a capacity building model for environmental decision-making. Within an applied learning environment, diverse interests engage in collaborative and reflective skill development to enhance decision-making in environmental policy and community-based collaboratives. This presentation will examine the decision-making system in which decisions affecting the environment are occurring; recognize several changes that need to occur in order for capacity building to develop; and how the capacity for environmental decision-making can be strengthened in order to respond to new constraints and issues. Some of the questions the presentation will respond to include: What particular skills and resources are needed to broaden one's knowledge and engage in environmental decision-making? What approaches will foster a network of relationships and responsibilities? Examples of accomplishments to share with participants include case studies, fact sheets, and an article examining the NRLI leadership development processes. By intentionally strengthening communication and collaboration across administrative and geographic boundaries, stakeholders can engage in more complex environmental issues affecting community and their regions.

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YOUTH ARE THE STRONGEST LINK...TO COMMUNITY SERVICE

Nadine S. Fogt*

ABSTRACT:

Throughout the last 100 years, 4-H'ers have responded to those in need in their local communities or even across the nation. Service to others is a key element of a 4-H youth development program. 4-H members pledge their "hands to larger service" at every club meeting, and 4-H professionals understand the importance of community service. Engagement in service is an effective means of meeting many youth development goals such as development of life skills, increased sense of responsibility, and a sense of belonging. But, in our quest to "do" community service, have we locked youth into providing only the "labor," such as planting flowers and picking up trash? Have we neglected the planning, decision making, and reflection that make the experience more meaningful? Have we provided 4-H adult and teen volunteers the "know-how" and the tools to succeed? Seminar participants will learn through hands-on activities and group discussion an easy-five step process for creating meaningful community service experiences and how to teach these methods to volunteers so they may empower youth in their communities. A train-the-trainer lesson plan will be shared, along with an interactive game-"YOUth Are the Strongest Link." These activities were developed based on findings from a local survey and focus group involving 4-H teens. Community service projects can be fun, creative, and educational for youth when they are given active roles in the entire process. Everyone is a winner in the game when YOUth are the strongest link in a meaningful community service project.

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EDUCATING CHILD-CARE PROVIDERS VIA SATELLITE-MEETING A 21ST-CENTURY DEMAND: ISSUES AND EVALUATION RESULTS

Sandra P. Hall M.Ed.* and Nancy Ellen Kiernan, Ph.D.

ABSTRACT:

The Penn State Cooperative Extension Better Kid Care Program, delivered by Family Living Agents, provides educational materials and training opportunities for child-care providers, parents and employers throughout Pennsylvania. The core outreach method of the Better Kid Care Program is distance education, downlinked in two-hour satellite-training workshops with wrap-around discussion periods. During the 2000-01 programming year, eight satellite-training workshops produced at Penn State were downlinked to over 55 Penn State Cooperative Extension training sites across Pennsylvania and to over 40 states nationwide. The evaluation team selected three satellite downlinks to evaluate: identified objectives; used the telephone survey method and entered the survey results into a statistical computer program; findings and conclusions were shared in long version and fact sheet. The evaluation provided a profile of the participants, the value of distance education and impact for the Better Kid Care Program.

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DOING BUSINESS: COMMUNITY-INVOLVED RADIO PROGRAMMING

Jane E. Haskell*

ABSTRACT:

With over 50,000 home-based businesses in Maine, and more than 15 million small businesses nationwide, the need for ongoing business education is great. The University of Maine Cooperative Extension's program, Doing Business, helps Maine people learn about business resources as a result of listening to an hour-long, monthly, business education radio program that addresses business topics from the point of view of home-based business owners. An Extension educator who produces and hosts of Doing Business uses a variety of techniques including call-in, topic related resource packets, Web archiving and anonymous evaluations to invite a largely unseen and silent audience of more than 3000 to participate. More than half of listeners surveyed revealed that, as a result of listening to facilitated, one-hour conversations among three to five program guests, they had (1) increased their knowledge of running their businesses; (2) reduced business management risk; (3) worked on a business plan; (4) maintained records more regularly; and (5) enrolled in a workshop, class, or course relating to business management. Citizens who own very small businesses are taking a leadership role by being a guest on the air and are also mentoring other business owners. Guests also reported increased confidence and personal leadership skills to enhance small and home-based business in Maine. Collaborative leadership between Extension and community radio creates an opportunity for community members and business assist organizations to listen, participate and become involved.

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PARTNERS IN GOOD

Erin Holmes*

ABSTRACT:

Through the Health Rocks program Baltimore County has been able to embrace one of the major themes of our County Centennial Conversation, Youth Adult Partnerships. With the help of the Police Officers at the nine Police Athletic League Youth Centers (PAL) Baltimore County has created a network of teen mentors, who have worked to create positive changes in their communities. Each PAL center developed a team of youth and adults in order to do a community service project in their area. Traditional the 4-H Program has provided positive educational materials and experiences to help keep youth minds focused and away from harmful lifestyles. The goal of 4-H is to "Make the Best Better." The Baltimore County Police Athletic League's (PAL) mission is to offer young people a viable and constructive alternative to the temptations of "street life" which can lead to a life of crime, alcoholism, drugs, vandalism, and delinquency. PAL provides the environment to keep boys and girls active, interested, and busy through its supervised multi-faceted recreational, societal, and educational programs to develop leadership traits and build good citizens.

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AGES AND STAGES FOR CHILD-CARE PROVIDERS: A TOOL FOR WORKING WITH COMMUNITY CHILD-CARE PROVIDERS

Mary F. Longo*, Kathy L. Reschke and Cheryl L. Barber

ABSTRACT:

The Child Care Issues Team of Ohio State University Extension, Family and Consumer Sciences works to provide quality educational resources and materials for Extension Agents, educators and child-care providers. After identifying a gap in materials on the developmental ages and stages of children who are in a family- or center-based child-care program, three members of the team developed a series of nine fact sheets. The set was written specifically with the child-care provider as the audience. Each fact sheet addresses a specific age between birth and 5 years. It gives the child-care provider typical signs of development for that age child, ways the provider can encourage physical, social and emotional development, tips for age appropriate toys, safety concerns, ways to communicate with parents and help for developmental concerns. Conference participants will be able to learn creative ways to use these materials in their program, how to make connections with child-care providers in their community and review evaluations from providers currently using the materials. Participants will also have the chance to talk with the authors and find out how these materials have provided opportunities for new programming in their communities.

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POWER OF THE PRESS! UTILIZING THE MEDIA TO PROMOTE YOUR EXTENSION PROGRAMS

Dana Martin*

ABSTRACT:

Are you doing everything possible to publicize your Extension programs? By utilizing a few secrets of the trade, you can increase opportunities in promoting educational programs and events through various media outlets. Do you know how to make a traditional program sound interesting to the general public? Can you identify newsworthy events? Have you successfully marketed your story idea to the right publication? This poster session will help Extension educators to (1) think outside the box when it comes to promoting programs; (2) use successful writing techniques to increase chance of being published; (3) use photography to enhance articles; (4) utilize methods to successfully approach media outlets. A regional 4-H summer camp program was close to being cancelled due to low registration numbers until a well designed, media blitz was planned. "Power of the Press" is an effective tool if correctly approached. And, it doesn't have to cost a dime!

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TODAY'S YOUTH-TOMORROW'S LEADERS: UNDERSTANDING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Jeri P. Marxman*

ABSTRACT:

Any number of recent studies, including the recent 4-H "National Conversation on Youth Development in the 21st Century" concluded there is a need to "empower youth directly in creating policy and making decisions at all levels of government and society. At the same times, local officials, especially in rural areas, cite difficulties in involving citizens in local government as officials or as volunteers in advisory roles. Accordingly, an alliance of representatives of Illinois local government associations and Extension educators was organized to develop an experiential curriculum for high schools students, "Today's Youth, Tomorrow's Leaders: Understanding Local Government." The curriculum was designed on the principle that in order to participate actively in local policy development, citizens must first understand the process of providing local services and which jurisdictions of local governments are responsible for these services. People who do not understand how local governments work generally feel powerless, they do not understand that a principle tenet of our form of government is "...of the People, by the People, for the People." The curriculum is currently being piloted in ten schools, and is scheduled for full release in the fall. The partners in this alliance have each brought important knowledge and skills to the endeavor; the energy in the effort has been extraordinary. This interactive session will include a review of the curriculum, opportunities to participate in activities, and a description of the continuing efforts of the planning alliance.

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TRIVIA ... THE 4-H WAY

Bob Peterson* and Brent Strickland

ABSTRACT:

Trivia ... the 4-H Way Youth learn quickly through games. Whether it is information or behaviors, etc., the result is the same. New knowledge and changes in behavior exist as a result. Games also tend to reduce the fear of not knowing answers because the game itself is fun. Using this information and adapting two commonly used games, i.e., Jeopardy and Quiz Bowl presenters will share a PowerPoint program that participants can use immediately. The program is adaptable to any project or program. The use of digital photos, drawings, etc., and other techniques enhance the strength of this media that provides an exciting alternative to the read and answer Quiz Bowl model. Participants will receive a CD with the board model, and several project models developed by the presenters and a guide to making changes in the program. Ideally participants will need a laptop with a CD-ROM drive, and PowerPoint 2000 for full participation. However, they are not required. Either way, join us for some fun.

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ADVISORY BOARDS: DINOSAUR OR DYNAMIC! WHICH IS YOURS?

Carol J. Schultz*

ABSTRACT:

In a time of fast change, uncertain budgets and program accountability, strong diverse Advisory Boards are imperative for powerful partnerships and community connection. One hallmark of a dynamic advisory board is to assist the extension agent in discovering new ideas for future programming and to make major contributions on relevant and public issues. Participants will learn all aspects of developing a dynamic advisory board with community volunteers and create a supportive group of past, present and future stakeholders and leaders. Agenda is as follows: (1) Identify Potential Advisory Board Members; (2) Selection and Recruitment; (3) Orientation; (4) Maintaining; (5) Recognition. Participants will receive relevant materials to assist in the development and continuation of advisory boards, councils or group collaborations.

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NATIONAL 4-H YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM - STRATEGIES THAT WORK

Summer Sedlacek*

ABSTRACT:

National 4-H Council, with funding from the Center for Mental Health Services, of the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration, of the Department of Health and Human Services, partnered with eight geographically and ethnically diverse communities across the United States to develop results-based, youth and adult led, collaborative programming in youth/school violence prevention. From Puerto Rico to Alaska, Wisconsin to Missouri, each site developed a unique approach to prevent violence. This interactive workshop will demonstrate through activity, discussion, and presentation how these communities came together to address violence among their young people. Participants will get a copy of the national program final report and experience actual activities from the national program.

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51 WAYS TO PROMOTE YOUR COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAM

Linda Strieter*

ABSTRACT:

You may have the most outstanding program ever, but to be successful, you have to let others know about it. This presentation will show participants "51 Ways to Promote Your Cooperative Extension Program." According to the great marketer, P.T. Barnum, "Without promotion, something terrible happens, NOTHING!" Participants will see how simple most promotion can be. The presentation will provide Cooperative Extension professionals with a wealth of techniques (51 in all) to promote the innovative and creative work they are doing. The "51 Ways to Promote Your Cooperative Extension Program," will be provided in a handout for each participant so that the session becomes a motivational and practical activity. Each participant will be empowered and excited about gaining new public relations expertise with the benefit of helping others understand how vital Cooperative Extension programs are in our fast-paced world.

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4-H CITIZENSHIP YOUTH FORUM

Michelle Taylor* and Patty Fisher

ABSTRACT:

4-H Citizenship Youth Forum is a three-day, in-depth, hands-on educational experience for older youth to learn about Missouri government. Youth spend time at the Missouri State Capitol and meet with current members of the Missouri Legislature. Youth choose between Legislative, Judicial or Media tracks where they learn about government issues first hand. Through the Legislative track, youth have the opportunity to meet and work with members of the Missouri House and Senate. They will begin in committee hearings to discuss bills that were introduced during the past legislative session. During the hearing, they will elect a chairperson and have witnesses on the various bills. The committees may alter or even create their own bill during this time. They will then debate the bills on the House floor where members of Congress will work with them on the legal aspects. The Missouri Bar Association and the Missouri Supreme Court Officials work with the Judicial Track. The 4-H'ers become judges, lawyers, defendants, plaintiffs and jurors as they hear real cases that have been brought before the Missouri Courts. The Media Track members learn about print, video and radio as a means to carry the news. 4-ers also tour local historic sites and local businesses as part of this three-day experience. This conference is developed and carried out by 4-H Youth Specialists, Community Development Specialists, University of Missouri, Lincoln University, Missouri Bar Association and Missouri Legislators.

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