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New Tools and Technology - Technology / Outreach

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TNT: TEAMS FOR NEW TECHNOLOGY

Karen S. Bruns*, Cindy Bond-Zielinski, Julia Keller and Rick Grove

ABSTRACT:

Delivering Extension programming through video conferencing expands the clientele reached, and the types of programs delivered. Local extension educators specializing in specific subject matter can reach audiences statewide and non-Extension faculty can offer credit and non-credit programming throughout the state. Using video conferencing, as a tool to expand Extension programming requires the development of an integrated team that represents content specialists, technology specialists, local program developers and multisite facilitators. Each team member is essential for the success of the program and must have a clear understanding of the role of the interactive video sites, the overall vision for using this new technology, a clear understanding of each team member's role, and the sharing of talents and expertise across individual sites. This session will focus on how developing a multi point interactive video system through Ohio State University Extension has resulted in the development of a team of professionals who work together to insure the successful delivery of the programming. The sessions will discuss how Ohio State University Extension has created Learning Centers to expand the use of technology. It will focus on the new roles created for Extension employees as a part of being on a team delivering video conferencing based programming. The presenters will discuss the ramifications of this on the organizational structure within Extension and the human resources implications when expanding technology to deliver Extension programming.

*Leader, OSU CARES and University Outreach & Engagement, Columbus, OH

THE WEBBOOK OF ITS INNOVATIONS IN EXTENSION

Dr. Bruce DeYoung* and Stephan J. Goetz

ABSTRACT:

The age of the digital economy is dawning, and with it, new mechanisms for Cooperative Extension to connect with its stakeholders. While our work focuses on people and their needs, technological advances make it possible to provide applied education more rapidly than ever before. Cooperative Extension's dynamic relationship with technology typifies the adage, "the more the world changes, the more it remains the same." While the technology that facilitates university outreach has changed over time, its role in program delivery remains the same vitally important! The objectives of the book featured in this poster are threefold: 1. To show ways in which information technology (IT) is being used in existing Extension programs; 2. To indicate how new Extension programs and audiences are being developed through IT; 3. To examine the implications of the digital divide for Extension programming. This poster captures some of Extension's pioneering IT efforts and innovations. Sections include E-Commerce and agriculture/Forestry; E-Commerce and Small/Rural Business; IT and the Digital Divide; E-Communities and E-Government; and Web-Based Community Economic Analysis. This resource will be useful to Extension professionals seeking to innovate and expand their educational programs through the use of emerging information technology.

*Professor and Extension Leader Business and Information Technology (BIT), Extension OSU Extension Service, OSU College of Business, Oregon State University, Corvallis
Email: deyoungb@bus.orst.edu

IT'S IN THE DNA, WHY ARE FRUITS DIFFERENT?

David R. Drake*

ABSTRACT:

The amount of scientific information in molecular biology and genetics has exploded in recent years and is expanding more rapidly, yet few people, especially in the US, understand the information or its implications. At the root is DNA, most have heard of it but many are not sure of its role. An interactive display, using different fruit varieties, at fairs and natural resource festivals educated school children and the public about the role of DNA. Participants were displayed several varieties of apples and asked what made apples different? They were told that it was genetics or DNA. The biological process from DNA, to protein, to fruit product, was explained. Participants were then given a card with an apple leaf and DNA code printed on it and asked to match the leaf to an apple variety using the DNA code. Using a simplified process and visual aids, participants gained an understanding of the biological process from DNA to fruit and the potential implications of this understanding.

*Extension Assistant Professor, Utah State University, USU Extension, Richfield, UT
Email: davidd@ext.usu.edu

"TECHNOLOGY OPTIONS FOR DISTANCE TRAINING AND COMMUNICATIONS"

Scott V. Fedale*

ABSTRACT:

So Extension administration has challenged you to "do more with less." And you've decided you want to start using some new technologies, like satellite, video conferencing and video streaming, for training, team planning, workshops, administrative communications and a substitute for travel? But which technologies work best for which purposes? What are the pros and cons of each technology? And what does it cost to use each of them? Get the answer to these and many other questions by attending this workshop on "Technology Options for Distance Training and Communications." In this session you learn about the basics of satellite, video conferencing and video streaming (web-casting), the pros and cons of each technology, and when to use each technology for what type of application and audience. You'll discover how to assess factors like the size and location of your audience, the type of content, your budget, the educational experience you're trying to create among your viewers and equipment needs in making the right technology choice for your training or group communication application. When you leave this workshop you'll know the difference between IP and ISDN videoconferencing; how satellite transmission works, what you need to originate on location video streaming and the costs involved with each of these technologies.

*Director Extension Information Technology, Pullman, WA
Email: fedale@wsu.edu

TECHNOLOGY ENHANCED LEARNING FOR NEW AND EMERGING RURAL ENTREPRENEURS, PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Julie M. Fox*

ABSTRACT:

The Ohio State University Extension Service at the OSU South Centers launched an onsite and online learning network to engage new and emerging entrepreneurs. This poster presentation highlights the design, development, implementation, challenges and outcomes. Rural entrepreneurs benefited from increased access to business information and instruction through video conferencing, Internet communications and multimedia presentations. This project provided an opportunity to identify critical success factors for a rural University research and Extension center using technology to enhance learning for non-degree seeking adult learners. The poster includes information on the strategies and tools used for promotion, administration, delivery and evaluation of this innovative entrepreneur education program. Results included lessons on partnerships for distance education, technology utilization and rural networking.

*Ohio State University Extension, OSU South Centers, Piketon, OH

FASHION INSTITUTE –LINKING CREATIVITY, TECHNOLOGY, AND THE APPAREL INDUSTRY

Kay Hendrickson*, Jan Hiller and Christy Price

ABSTRACT:

Fashion Institute, a week-long resident program, focuses on creativity as a portal to creative careers within the apparel industry as well as options for artistic cultural endeavors. Participants expand their creative talents through 20 different hands-on educational sessions presented in two different tracks: Apparel, Pattern Making and Textile Design. Both tracks use "state of the art" technology and equipment to develop original designs. The creative work of the participants is juried and displayed at an Award Exhibition and Brunch attended by campus administrators, faculty, participants, friends, and parents. Past evaluations show increases in life skills: wise use of resources, communication, accepting differences, and marketable skills. Teachers/leaders noted that the skills they learned during the Institute make their programs more technology-forward, interesting, and creative to their students. Comments show that participants are using the information and technology introduced for themselves, in business settings, and in teaching others. Program planning and sponsorship is designed and executed by the Clothing and Textiles Team made up of WSU faculty from Cooperative Extension and Apparel, Merchandising and Textiles Department, statewide Extension staff, volunteers, and youth associated with 4-H and the Clothing and Textile Advisor Master Volunteer Program. The seminar will highlight how Cooperative Extension and the university are helping the state apparel industry educate youth to the opportunities of work, how creativity and technology work together, how a diverse team was put together to design program, and how the Institute is delivered and evaluated for impact.

*Area Extension Agent, Pasco, WA
Email: hendrik@wsu.edu

TAX PLANNING STRATEGIES FOR EXTENSION EDUCATORS

Barbara O'Neill*

ABSTRACT:

Extension educators often incur significant out-of-pocket costs in performing the duties of their job. Due to budget constraints or organizational policies, job-related expenses may not be covered at all or may be only partially reimbursed. Some examples include non-reimbursed mileage and professional conference expenses, gifts for secretaries and volunteers, charitable donations, professional organization dues, union dues, educational expenses, and the purchase of teaching supplies and professional publications (e.g., journals). Fortunately, many of these business related expenses are tax deductible on federal income tax returns. In addition, as employees of land-grant universities and/or state or county governments, many Extension employees are eligible to participate in tax-deferred retirement savings programs (e.g., 403(b) plans) which can also provide significant tax savings. This workshop will discuss over a dozen tax planning strategies that can save Extension educators money on their federal income tax return. The presenter, a certified financial planner, will discuss the benefits of each strategy and what the IRS requires (e.g., adjusted gross income) in order to qualify to use them. Tips for filling out IRS Form 2106 ("Employee Business Expenses") will also be shared, as well as the amount that can be earned over time by contributing a percentage of pay on a regular basis.

*Interim Extension Specialist in Financial Resource Management, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Newton, NJ
Email: oneill@aesop.rutgers.edu

CONNECTING TO 4-H CLOVERBUD VOLUNTEERS THROUGH AN EDUCATIONAL VIDEO PRODUCTION

Scott D. Scheer* and Vicki Reed

ABSTRACT:

A new volunteer training video has been developed to help 4-H Cloverbud advisors understand the program and serve children (5-8 year-olds) in Cloverbuds by promoting their healthy development and life skills. The video is about 25 minutes long and can be used in its entirety or a section at a time. The six-part video is organized in the following manner (with the approximate running length of each section provided): I. Introduction (0-5 minutes); II. Program Parameters (including the development of 5-8 year-old children) (5-14 minutes); III. How to Use the Cloverbud Curriculum (14-17 minutes); IV. Organizing a Cloverbud Group (17-22 minutes); V. Creating a Positive Learning Environment for Cloverbuds (22-24 minutes); VI. What is Expected of Cloverbud Advisors? (24-26 minutes). The instructional video has been organized for viewing in various types of formats and settings. These include break-out sessions for countywide volunteer in-services, a self-study for current volunteers/Extension staff, or as a resource to recruit potential volunteers by letting them know what Cloverbuds is all about. By attending this poster presentation, participants will gain ideas and knowledge on how to utilize the Cloverbud volunteer training video to advance the skills and capabilities of their Cloverbud leaders/advisors/staff in their own state or county. Segments of the video will be shown at this poster session. Information will be provided on how to order a copy of the instructional video.

*Associate Professor and State Extension Specialist, Columbus, OH
Email: scheer.9@osu.edu

VIDEO FLASH CARDS

Jan Scholl*

ABSTRACT:

Video flash cards (showing action for viewer response and discussion) has been a successful way to teach basic skill and term identification to audiences ranging from 4-H to agriculture producers. Try your skill at identification and learn more about incorporating "flash cards" into your next video/DVD project!

*Associate Professor, Ag and Extension Education, University Park, PA

Email: jscholl@psu.edu

TECHNOLOGIES ACROSS NEBRASKA

Dewey Teel*, Phyllis Schoenholz and Connie Hancock

ABSTRACT:

Technologies Across Nebraska is an initiative led by University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension to create awareness of technology and to provide education to local communities. The goal is to assist decision makers and citizens as they implement technology into their long range plans to sustain their communities. The initiative will provide a network of expertise to assist them in locating current information on infrastructure, policy, education and training issues and opportunities. The goal is to provide a sustained source of information, training and educational opportunities to enable Nebraska communities, citizens and businesses to make informed decisions regarding information technology. Within two years, it is critical that as many Nebraska communities as possible have been engaged in a decision making process to insure their citizens have access to and are able to use the current information technology to enhance their businesses and quality of life.

*University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension Educator, Neligh, NE
Email: dteel1@unl.edu