

## **2015 awards, presented at the MU Extension Summit, Oct. 28, 2015**

### **Meritorious Support Service Award**

Recognizes university or extension state or regional support staff or paraprofessionals who have significantly supported extension professionals or programs for a sustained period.

#### **Janet Kelly**

Janet began her employment as Executive Assistant with Community Development at the University of Missouri-Columbia in 2007.

Janet has provided key support for the leadership of the Community Development program through many administrative tasks. Including: Scheduling, training and tech support for monthly program meetings via Adobe Connect, Coordination and event planning for Community Development ISEs, Scheduling for the program director and many associated functions—which is not a trivial task, Preparation of numerous reports and Support for all the leadership activities that Mary Leuci has been involved in—including her leadership roles internally and externally.

Janet also provides fiscal support for the MACEDP accounts. She has assisted in training and orientation for new administrative staff in the CAFNR Division of Applied Social Sciences as well as new regional community development specialists.

During the past eight years working in MU Extension and CAFNR, Janet has become a valuable asset for the Community Development Program on campus and in the field. She has brought integrity, efficiency, innovation, and her sense of humor to this task and demonstrated repeatedly that she will go the extra mile to ensure success. Not only is she Mary Leuci's right hand but often the "go-to" person for many others in Extension.

### **Outstanding Regional Extension Faculty Award (Woman)**

Recognizes regional extension faculty demonstrating success in program development, regional or campus activities, innovative methods used, use of evaluation, willingness to cooperate, and other activities.

#### **Janet LaFon**

Janet LaFon joined Epsilon Sigma Phi in 1988, served as the ESP Annalist from 2006-2012 and served on the Recognition and Awards committee in 2003, 2014 and 2015.

She has been with Extension for 27 years, since 1981 in Carthage, MO. Janet has held leadership roles as Extension Program Conference, chair, 2014 and vice-chair in 2013. Janet served as UMEA President in 1995-96 and had previously served as president-elect, secretary and treasurer.

Janet has presented approximately 700 educational programs, workshops and short courses, developed a six-session money management course, F.Y.I. A Financial Education Course for Women, co-authored two comprehensive money management curriculums (Money Action Plan and Making Money Count) that have received state and national recognition and co-presented training workshops on both curriculums for MO Extension faculty. She has co-developed and delivered two statewide train-the-trainer workshops on the Money Action Plan curriculum for non-extension audiences. Developed and presented a webinar for Alabama Extension Agents on the Making Money Count curriculum.

Including presentations at 8 national conferences, over 700 educational programs and numerous leadership roles and awards, Janet LaFon has consistently maintained exemplary work and accomplishments during her career with Extension from 1981 - present. Janet is a respected colleague by everyone in Extension, a friend to all who know her and is the ultimate candidate to receive the award for Outstanding Regional Extension Faculty (Woman).

### **Outstanding Regional Extension Faculty Award (Man)**

Recognizes regional extension faculty demonstrating success in program development, regional or campus activities, innovative methods used, use of evaluation, willingness to cooperate, and other activities.

### **Bob Kelly**

Bob has been a member of Epsilon Sigma Phi for over 25 years.

Bob began his Extension career in 1987 in Perryville, MO, as an Agriculture Engineering Specialist serving the Southeast Extension region, Bob covered the counties from Cape Girardeau, north to Perry county and west toward Madison County. In 1992 Bob transferred to Buchanon County as an Agriculture Engineering Specialist, in 1998 Bob took a position with the Kansas Soybean Association, but returned to Extension in 2000 as a Farm Management Specialist housed in Buchanon County.

As an Agriculture Engineering Specialist, Bob assisted farmers in Southeast Missouri with problems associated with livestock housing and waste management. In Northwest Missouri, Bob facilitated the implementation of minimum and no-till for regions row crop producers. As a farm management specialist, Bob has been instrumental in increasing the overall profitability of farm families in the Northwest Missouri region.

The reduced tillage project, implemented by Bob and other Extension field faculty was a wide raging project; that reduced soil erosion dramatically in Northwest Missouri. Bob

conducted numerous on farm demonstrations,. These reduced tillage demonstrations were in at least 12 counties in the region.

Bob has helped with the Farm children's safety program. He has assisted in variety trials for Buchanan County farmers. He teaches, along with other field faculty a scouting workshop. He has taught the scouting workshop. Bob serves as the agriculture contact for Buchanan County, and has been interviewed by local media outlets numerous times.

Of recent, Bob conducts a tax school, that has been well received by farmers in the Northwest Region. Bob has become the go-to person for the new Farm Bill. In 2014-15, there was a constant stream of farmers requesting information. Bob also assist with the vegetable growers conference for Northwest Missouri.

Bob efforts to assist farm operators is beyond reproach. Bob is a team player, collaborating with other Extension field faculty to develop programs pertinent to their clientele.

Bob is a notable field faculty member of University of Missouri Extension; His efforts have a wide ranging impact on the citizens of the Northwest Missouri region and Missouri in general.

### **Outstanding State Extension Faculty**

Recognizes state extension faculty demonstrating success in program development, regional or campus activities, innovative methods used, use of evaluation, willingness to cooperate, and other activities.

### **Dr. Johanna Reed Adams**

Dr. Adams has been a continuous active member since initiation in 1991. She has served as membership committee chair, newsletter editor, and as the Alpha Tau Chapter president. Also she has frequently served ice cream at the chapter sponsored ice cream social held at the MU Extension annual conference. She has represented the Alpha Tau Chapter at several regional and national ESP meetings.

As a state specialist, Johanna has supported community leadership development across the state since 1997. More than 40 EXCEL (Experience in Community and Enterprise Development) and Youth EXCEL programs have engaged over 8,000 local leaders.

Dr. Adams has also been instrumental in a national evaluation study of the flexible EXCEL program with its focus on local control, inclusiveness and the future of community governance documented program outcomes: 1) personal growth and efficacy; 2) community commitment; 3) shared future and purpose; 4) community knowledge; and 5) civic engagement. Communities investing in an EXCEL program see

new and younger people running for public office, more involvement in community activities and organizations, improved community appearance, and better functioning boards and commissions. The study showed programs each yield 5-10 community projects annually. EXCEL participants were involved in the funding and building of a new high school in Camdenton, Mo., and new construction of an aquatic center in Moberly, Mo. Other examples found in the research include: an addition to a hospital, a course for youth leadership on ethics in business, attraction of Smithsonian exhibits to boost tourism creation, and a new tourism center.

Johanna provided the MU Extension leadership for the collaborative development with the community action agencies of the Step Up to Leadership curriculum that has been used across Missouri, Illinois and other states. Recently she and a multi-state team received funding from the NCRCD to conduct in-depth evaluation indicating that participants gained self-awareness, interpersonal skills, knowledge of community resources, community organizing skills; and saw themselves as role models as they implemented key community projects.

Her programming has included the Columbia Neighborhood Leadership Program that has strengthened leadership capacities of new and existing local leaders in planning and facilitation skills. In addition she has cohosted KOPN's Community Connections monthly radio program the past two years, which has highlighted and elevated the importance of community development in the community.

### **Early Career Service Award**

Recognizes the new extension professional who has exhibited the potential for leadership and excellence in extension program planning, delivery, evaluation, in program and/or administration during the first 10 years of their career.

### **Dr. Jenny Flatt**

Dr. Flatt was initiated into Epsilon Sigma Phi in 2012. She has been the chair of the Global Relations Committee for two years. In this role she has been responsible for facilitating the goals of the committee and ensuring forward movement with these goals.

Jenny has worked with the University of Missouri Extension as a 4-H Youth Specialist since 2007. She began her career in Howell County with additional responsibilities in Ozark, Oregon, Shannon, and Texas Counties. In 2010, she assumed a position in Cole County as a 4-H Youth Specialist with responsibilities in Osage and Callaway Counties.

Jenny received the Rookie of the Year award in 2008 from the University of Missouri Extension Association (UMEA). In 2014 she received the Achievement in Service Award from the National Association of 4-H Agents (NAE4-HA). Jenny has served as the President of the Missouri Association of 4-H Youth Workers (MAE4-HYW) for two terms (2014 and 2015).

Much of the work Jenny has engaged in has been to enrich, strengthen, and grow the 4-H Youth Development program at the local level. Jenny's engagement in the MAE4-HYW organization as the President has helped her uplift this programming with strong connections to colleagues throughout the state and at the national level. Some of the accomplishments their MAE4-HYW organization has seen recently has been the implementation of the Virtual Coffee Shop. This is a professional development initiative that has begun to support local programming efforts. Topics have included: risk management, program implementation for local and regional events, theoretical approaches to youth development, etc. These webinars occur monthly to support Missouri 4-H professionals in their career pursuits.

As a part of the MAE4-HYW and NAE4-HA, Jenny has had the opportunity to develop a camp counselor leadership study. This study will result in a national presentation contrasting two major counselor leadership models in the state of Missouri. Through a series of focus groups and a quantitative tool, this study found that youth who are given a hands-on leadership opportunity through the camping experience are much more likely to engage in responsibility and autonomy of leadership in other areas of their lives. Their trajectory and hope for this project is to publish findings in the Journal of Youth Development.

Jenny has been actively engaged in the 4-H Youth Development program as evidenced by her initiatives with professional organizations within the University of Missouri system. This involvement has enriched her career and created paths to continually strive toward excellence in local programs that have a statewide impact.

### **Mid-Career Service**

Recognizes the experienced extension professional who has consistently exhibited leadership and excellence in extension program planning, delivery, evaluation, in program and/or administration for over 10 years and less than 20 years.

### **Meridith Berry**

Meridith joined Epsilon Sigma Phi Alpha Tau Chapter in 2005. She served three years on the professional development committee and two years as chair of the committee. In 2014 Meridith was elected president elect and will serve as president in 2015-16.

Meridith started working for Extension in 2000 as Regional Information Technology Specialist. In 2010 she was promoted to Associate Extension Professional through the non-tenured track promotion system. She served as interim CPD in Mercer County and was successful at maintaining funding from the county commission.

In 2012, the position was phased out. Meridith was given the opportunity to retool as a Family Financial Education Specialist and transferred to a different office. She became Grundy County CPD in 2013.

Meridith has served on committees and held offices in UMEA, ESP, NACDEP and MACDEP and is a member of MEAFCS, NEAFCS.

On a state level, Meridith serves on the eXtension institutional team, the Program Integration Thematic team, and was a member of the (now defunct) Branding and Marketing Team. As a member of the Legislative Day panel, she works with MUAA, campus, and state council to decide on a program focus and educational priorities and make the logistic arrangements for the day at the capital.

On the national level, Meridith served on the 2011 eXtension national convention planning committee. She has also presented at eXtension national conference in Oklahoma City, and at Galaxy in Pittsburg. She has also presented at the state conferences held in Roach, MO and Columbia, MO.

In fifteen years Meridith has been trusted with many responsibilities. Her willingness to learn new skills and her dependability make her a valued team member. She approaches her programs with enthusiasm, and works diligently to provide the best, most relevant information to her clients. She has been recognized at all levels for the quality of her work. Most importantly, she believes each client deserves her best effort.

### **Congratulations Meridith!**

#### **Distinguished Service Award**

Recognizes an experienced extension professional who consistently exhibits continuing leadership, initiative, and excellence in extension program planning, delivery, and evaluation over a career of more than 20 years.

#### **Kathy Dothage**

Kathy Dothage was inducted into Epsilon Sigma Phi in 1975 and continues to be a present member. She has participated in ESP at Galaxy conferences and in Alpha Tau Chapter functions within the state.

In her 46 years with University of Missouri Extension, Kathy has held numerous leadership positions. Nationally, she has served in the presidential roles for NEAFCS, on the JCEP board and co-chaired the 2013 Galaxy IV Conference.

Kathy was one of the first faculty members trained as a Mental Health First Aid facilitator. She has provided this training to both youth and adults, preparing individuals to recognize the possibilities of mental health issues and assist with getting the person to a professional. Locally, Kathy's efforts provided integrated programming to assist Missourians in achieving their goals through the Capitalizing on your Community Heritage Conference. This was a culmination of eight months of partnership building and planning including Extension staff, regional and local organizations and communities and interested volunteers. Kathy was the co-chaired the planning committee and also provided a session on the organization and accomplishments of the Osage County Agritourism Council and Be a Tourist in Your Own County.

Kathy Dothage excels at blending the expertise of a subject matter specialist into a very diverse extension program effort which serves the people of Missouri very well. She is adept at building relationships that allow delivery of high impact programs across multiple areas important to extension clients. Most recently, she was instrumental in forging a new partnership with State Technical College of Missouri with a co-funded youth educator position that will help bring STEM resources from the STCM campus to our state 4-H program.

### **Congratulations Kathy!**

#### **Administrative Leadership Award**

Recognizes an Extension professional who has shown noteworthy administrative enthusiasm, performance, and accomplishment during their extension career (10 years or more). This award recognizes the candidate's work in meeting the needs and furthering the efforts of supervised faculty, staff and/or program. Administrative leadership may be at county, regional, chapter, program, department, or national level.

#### **Mark Stewart**

Mark Stewart has been an active member of Epsilon Sigma Phi since 1987. He is the 2015 ESP past president and chair of nominations, 2013 vice-president, and 2010-12 public issues committee chair. Mark served on JCEP Public Issues Leadership Development National Planning Committee 2008-11 (co-chair 2010, chair 2011).

Mark has served Extension for 35 years. He graduated from the University of Missouri Animal Science Department and worked as a Research Technician in the Animal Science Department prior to being hired as an Extension Regional Livestock Specialist in 1980, a position he held until 2013. Mark served as Interim Regional Director for four years prior to being promoted in 2013 to Regional Director for the East Central Region.

As a successful regional livestock specialist:

- A portfolio of interdisciplinary programming including community and youth development, agritourism, value-added agriculture. The Osage County Agritourism Council, which Mark helped establish, continues to draw visitors and dollars into the area as a result of the many activities initiated.
- Key team member for over \$1.2 million secured for water quality and livestock and crop production and marketing programs.

As a successful county program director, Mark guided the development of the long-term partnership between Moniteau and Morgan Counties to function as one unit; provided faculty leadership for the design and move into new extension office building; and offered county council development that empowered them as advocates for programming.

As a regional director, Mark established a collaborative partnership with State Technical College of Missouri, effectively lead a reorganized region to become a cohesive programming unit, hired approximately 13 new regional faculty, and fostered 18 regional faculty in successful promotion as non-tenured faculty.

Mark Stewart has woven his passion for excellence, innovation, and learner engagement into his Extension work throughout his career—ever expanding his own knowledge and competence as a livestock expert, extension professional and leader into the fiber of his work, He has notably lead, supported, and fostered key partnerships and innovative processes that have created opportunities for extension faculty, staff, volunteers and program participants to impact their operations, families, and communities through research-based extension programming.

### **Visionary Leadership**

Recognizes an extension professional whose significant accomplishments have resulted in leading extension forward in new directions. This person's visionary leadership should have enabled extension to anticipate a significant new opportunity and developed support to implement program organizational changes necessary to achieve success.

### **Dr. Van Ayers**

Dr. Ayers has been an Epsilon Sigma Phi member since 1989. He has served as the Southeast Missouri recognition and awards representative since 2014 and currently serves on the ESP Recognition and Awards Committee.

Dr. Ayers has worked as a Regional Extension Specialist at the University of Missouri for 32 years, since December of 1983. Dr. Ayers is a Community Development Specialist in Bloomfield, MO in the Southeast Region. He has also served in roles including Agriculture Engineering, Natural Resource Engineering, and Agriculture and Rural Development.

Dr. Ayers background in agriculture, rural development, agriculture economic development, natural resources and engineering as well as education and training in community development has provided the opportunity for unique partnerships with USDA-Rural Development, Missouri Department of Ag. and other partnering agencies focusing on agriculture and economic development. These partnerships continue to open new doors for Extension and our customers.

Dr. Ayers has completed funding projects for growers, producers and agriculture businesses totaling more than \$2,046,819. He has secured additional funding of Missouri Sustainable Agriculture Projects resulting in \$43,500 in funding for sustainable agriculture projects with Missouri Department of Agriculture.

Dr. Ayers has authored USDA-SARE Sustainable Agriculture funding projects resulting in \$22,000 in funding in producer grants.

Dr. Ayers work has significant measurable economic and sustainable agricultural impacts in Southeast Missouri and is meeting ongoing needs for the clients of Extension. Dr. Ayers is expanding this program state-wide through an ISE that will develop a multi-disciplinary work team to deliver these same programs and intended outcomes across the state.

Dr. Ayers tenure of nearly 32 years with Extension and his unconstrained ability to forge partnerships across multiple disciplines within agriculture, economic development, community development, natural resources and engineering has resulted in leading Extension forward in new directions. Dr. Ayers visionary leadership as Janie Dunning, Missouri's State Director of USDA Rural Development best stated "has defined Extension's diverse and unique strength as a dependable, trustworthy and high quality partnering organization."

### **Distinguished Team Award**

Recognizes outstanding efforts of an extension staff team (two or more individuals) for responding to and incorporating into a specific educational program one or more critical issues. Critical issues may be defined by local, regional, state or national need.

### **Bi-national Health Fair**

Beverly Maltsberger, Community Development Specialist, Buchanan County

Meridith Berry, Family Financial Education Specialist, Grundy County

Gerardo Martinez, Alianzas Program Director, UMKC Institute for Human Development

The Bi-national health fair promotes health care, healthy lifestyles, and preventative care through education, health screenings, and referrals for the immigrant and refugee population in Buchanan County and surrounding area. The target audience is the Latino population, however in the past few years; immigrants from Burma, China, and the Sudan have attended the event.

Many of the immigrants come directly to the region to work in the hog processing industry. They do not qualify for healthcare for the first 6 months. Many do not speak English. The event provides them with the immediate care they may need and information on how to access the healthcare system in the community. Aside from the language barrier, this event helps to foster trust between the immigrants and local service providers.

At the first Bi-National Health Fair, door prizes were awarded to participants. As soon as the PA system announced a winner's name, the program participants scattered as they thought it was a raid. Now the door prizes are handled differently to respect their culture and situations. Each year something new is learned. Green paper is no longer used to record health screening results, this is because when asked for the "green card", the target audience becomes alarmed. Finding a place and time for maximum participation has taken several years. The event now happens on a Sunday, before and after church services, at a school adjacent to the Catholic Church near the target audience community. Communicating with the participants is a challenge. Many bring someone with them who is bilingual, however, the need to be sure medical information is

interpreted correctly paramount. Several interpreters are on hand to provide accurate translation. The next big challenge is to find an interpreter for the Burmese clients.

Extension provides educational information in English as well as Spanish. Alianzas has provided translations for these materials when needed.

An approved standardized evaluation was developed and is administered as a part of the Alianzas project. In addition, exhibitors are asked to keep track of the numbers of screenings that are conducted and referrals that are made for additional care. A composite of results for the past 5 years in St. Joseph are as follows:

- 21 partner agencies participate in the Health Fair each year
- 682 Hispanic/Latino immigrants have participated in the event
- 282 volunteers, interpreters and partners have provided educational information and services during the Health Fairs totaling more than 1410 hours valued at more than \$26,000 in volunteer time
- 202 cholesterol screenings were conducted with 22 referrals for additional testing
- 393 glucose screenings were conducted with 40 referrals
- 294 vision screenings were conducted with 132 reading glasses distributed (glasses were donated)
- 30 hemoglobin screenings were conducted with 2 referrals
- 250 flu shots were administered
- 400 height, weight, and blood pressure checks were conducted
- 131 dental screenings were conducted with 31 cleaning referrals and 37 dental referrals
- 5 referrals for needed women's health care were made
- 4 seriously ill children were assessed and sent to the hospital for emergency care
- Certificates for free mammograms were provided to all adult women

Each year the event increases in number of participants as word spreads through the communities that the event is relevant and the sponsors are a trusted source of information and services.

Many barriers face immigrant populations as they try to assimilate into a new community. As residents, their health is important to the community. The bi-national

health fair team has proven their commitment to providing education and access to the areas' health services resources in a safe environment to all people regardless of nationality, immigration status, or income. This program would not happen without the leadership and organization provided by Extension.

### **Congratulations to the Bi-national health fair team!**

#### **Friend of Extension**

This is the highest award presented to a non-extension (lay) person and is designed to recognize truly outstanding support and personal involvement in Extension efforts over a period of time. Contributions may be of a general nature or specific to 4-H/Youth Development, Human Environmental Sciences, Business/Industry, Agriculture, Community/Public Sector or Continuing Education. An endorsement letter of support from the state Extension Director must be included with the nomination.

#### **Anita Hampton**

Anita Owner of Beyond Blossoms, LLC in Bolivar, MO a florist, garden, gift and home décor store. Has served on county, regional and state councils. Served pm University of Missouri Presidential Search Advisory Committee, Mu Chancellor Search Committee and has advocated for MU Extension in Washington, DC and worked to educate legislators in Jefferson City about the importance of MU Extension.

Anita traveled to South Africa with the Community Development Leadership Exchange program to see if a volunteer leadership program could be developed as part of the collaboration between the University of Missouri and the University of Western Cape. In 2014, a group from UWC traveled to Missouri to work on the details of the exchange. In July 2015, community volunteers from the townships near Cape Town, South Africa came to Missouri to participate in the first International Community Leadership Development exchange program. In early October, Anita co-lead Missouri community volunteers to Cape Town, South Africa.

Anita Hampton is serving her second year as chair of the UM Extension State Council. Over the past 11 years as a member of the state council she has promoted MU Extension to almost everyone she talks with. That is just the tip of the iceberg, Anita has lead the development of a greater connection with UM System Leadership, sharing with them about how MU Extension changes lives. There have been over 25 tours provided to Curators, UM Presidents, Chancellors, Vice Provosts, and VIP's during her tenure. She has provided testimony at hearings on the need for funding for higher education and as a staunch advocate for MU Extension. She has gone out of her way to be a link to many who were seeking resources and programs that were needed.

Anita has become a “go-to” person and confidant for many leads on behalf of UM System, the University of Missouri, and MU Extension. She was the volunteer representative for interaction and visits with South Africa and Cape Town and was part of the delegation that went to South Africa for the three week exchange for sharing ideas and developing ways to engage citizens in volunteering. She was instrumental in helping to demonstrate how volunteers can be pivotal in changing the face of cultural exchange.

Anita Hampton is quick to share with you how she feels that MU Extension has changed her life- and the lives of many of her family, friends and community. She will always be an advocate for MU Extension and higher education.

Anita Hampton is truly a FRIEND of MU Extension.