MU EXTENSION URBAN PRIDE POINTS

Every year, nearly half a million Missourians living in urban communities turn to University of Missouri Extension to gain practical knowledge, solve problems, adapt to change and make informed decisions. By tapping into statewide university research, MU Extension specialists provide Missourians with a wide range of programs in agriculture, community development, human environmental science, business development, youth development and continuing education. All programs are reliable and relevant because they respond to the specific needs of Missourians. Here are just a few examples of recent accomplishments.

Business Programs Aid Urban Entrepreneurs
- Acquire $110 million in new financing
- Increase sales by more than $205 million
- Earn $408 million in government contract
- Create or retain 11,386 jobs

Nutrition Education Reduces Health Costs
$1.5 million in federal funds invested each year for teaching families healthy eating habits results in a estimated annual reduction of $13.1 million in future medical costs.

4-H Grows Future Scientists.
Studies show 4-H’ers have three times greater interest in science than non-4-H peers and are 70 percent more likely to go to college.
- Over 450 youth are enrolled in Springfield region.
Greater Springfield Urban Area

Growing Businesses in the Ozarks
Small businesses are assisted through MU Extension’s business development specialists and the local Small Business & Technology Development Center (SBTDC).
- During 2010, the SBTDC served 194 businesses, increasing total sales by over $15 million and helping secure $10 million in loans.
- The SBTDC also assisted in retaining 544 jobs and helped to create 19 new businesses.

Horticulture Training Leads to More Spending
Master Gardeners provide educational programs, work in demonstration gardens, answer horticulture questions from residents and assist with various other community projects.
- In 2010, over 320 MU Extension-trained Master Gardeners provided about 20,600 hours of volunteer horticulture services locally.
- Training in gardening and landscaping leads to more spending in those areas. According to a 2005 story in Gardening Magazine, Springfield has the 3rd highest per capita spending on horticulture in the U.S.
- Other urban agriculture classes focus on greenhouses, family gardens and “Poultry in the Backyard.”

Providing Safe, Quality Childcare
Over 70 childcare operations representing about 3,500 children are provided childcare training through MU Extension. This training enhances the quality and safety of care provided to children at the local level.

Educating Professionals
In 2010, MU Extension provided education and/or training to 2,741 greater Springfield urban area professionals through statewide programs.
- MU Extension’s Fire & Rescue Training Institute (MU FRTI) - 644 enrollments
- Nursing Outreach and Continuing Medical Distance Education - 76 enrollments

Programs for Community Needs
The Greene County Mayor’s Association, Springfield Regional Economic Partnership, Southwest Missouri Council of Governments and others partner with MU Extension specialists for training.
- 16 individuals were trained in 2011 on how to form a community 501c3 not-for-profit.
- 56 attended the Historic School Summit to find uses for vacant school buildings.