MU Extension is the University of Missouri’s classroom in communities across the state. Created by federal land-grant and state statutes, MU Extension connects people to research-based education that improves the economy and people’s quality of life. No other educational institution has this statewide mandate.

MU Extension is relevant, reliable and responsive to today’s needs:

JOBS: In FY 2009, MU Extension’s Small Business and Technology Development Centers helped entrepreneurs create or retain 10,740 jobs.

HEALTH: The Stay Strong, Stay Healthy program helps middle-aged and older adults increase their physical activity, resulting in reduced risk for falls, better overall health and greater independence. These benefits decrease participants’ likelihood of entering a nursing home, which costs on average $55,115 per year in Missouri.

YOUTH: In both rural and urban settings, 4-H youth programs prepare young people for advanced education and the workforce. 4-H’ers set higher goals and are 41 percent less likely than non-participants to engage in risky or problem behavior.

MU Extension provides practical education to 1.2 million Missourians annually in:

- Business start-up and retention
- Nutrition and health
- Agriculture and natural resources
- Lawns and gardens
- Family finances
- Emergency management
- Community leadership
- 4-H youth development

MU Extension leverages funding:

Funds appropriated from federal, state and local governments for locally delivered programs are leveraged with contracts, grants, fees, gifts, sales and services. In fact, generated funds exceed appropriations as a percentage of overall revenue.
MU Extension educational programs play a vital role in Missouri

Teaching healthy lifestyle messages

The Family Nutrition Education Program reaches more than 20,000 participants each year in Jackson County with information about healthy food and lifestyle choices. National studies confirm that every dollar spent on the USDA Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program results in an $8.74 reduction in families’ future medical costs. In Missouri, that equates to an estimated savings of $13.1 million each year. In 2009, MU Extension Food Power exhibits visited 25 schools, reaching students with information on nutrition, food safety and physical activity.

Enhancing students’ personal growth, leadership skills and achievement

In partnership with the Local Investment Council and Kansas City urban schools, 4-H provides quality after-school and summer-school youth development programs that reach more than 600 youth in nine elementary and middle schools. The 4-H contract with LINC totals more than $2 million over a six-year period. Participating 10th District schools include Conn-West, Belvidere, Symington and Truman elementary schools in Grandview.

Improving the competitiveness of Missouri business and industry

As Missouri’s primary source for training dislocated workers in entrepreneurship, FastTrac® New Venture™ was ramped up to address economic demands in 2009 and, as a result, saw a 300 percent increase in participants. This joint business development program with Kansas City’s Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation guides aspiring entrepreneurs as they explore the feasibility of their ventures and learn how to develop business plans. In FY 2009, 197 Kansas City area residents completed the six sessions for a total 32 hours of training. Seventy-nine participants — 40 percent — started businesses afterward.

Linking nutrition and gardening to improve student health

Eating From the Garden, MU Extension’s youth nutrition and gardening program for fourth- and fifth-graders, reached more than 740 children in 26 Kansas City schools and community centers. Students plant and maintain outdoor vegetable gardens, taste new foods and participate in nutrition, plant science and environmental awareness lessons taught by 30 trained nutrition gardening volunteers. The Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City provided funding for the program. Tenth District garden sites include Border Star, Gordon Parks and Scuola Vita Nuova elementary and charter schools.

MU Extension in the 10th District

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