

## **For Immediate Release**

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### **We welcome four new members to the St. Louis County Extension Council!**

Congratulations to Teyuna Darris, Karen Jamerson, Cathy Lovins, and Nancy McClain for winning the 2019 St. Louis County Extension Council election. After being sworn in on March 21, they officially began their first two-year term. We are looking forward to their service!

Teyuna Darris was a graduate of the first cohort of Extension's Neighborhood Leadership Fellows (NLF), and she is a 2018 graduate of the Neighborhood Leadership Academy. She serves as a Trustee of the Ferguson Municipal Public Library and as a member of the St. Louis Food Equity Advisory Board, which is a grassroots collaboration of St. Louis County and St. Louis City residents to increase healthy food access throughout the St. Louis Promise Zone. "As a member of the MU Extension Council of St. Louis County, my goal is to use my communications and marketing skill set to help to raise awareness about the MU Extension and its work amongst the residents of the Saint Louis region," said Darris.

Karen Jamerson has been employed with the St. Louis Housing Authority for 29 years and has held several positions while with the agency. She has been the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Coordinator for the past 20 years. The HCV FSS Coordinator position has afforded her the opportunity to engage with many organizations that assist head of household families in becoming self-sufficient. "My goal as a new council member is to inform community members, as well as others about programs and educational training that the University of Missouri Extension offers," said Jamerson.

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Cathy Lovins teaches fourth, fifth, and sixth grade Reading at Griffith Elementary School in the Ferguson-Florissant School District. She is a current cohort participant of Extension's 2019 Neighborhood Leadership Fellows and recently completed the Neighborhood Leadership Academy in November 2018. "I am excited to be working with the MU Extension Council! Extension programs have had a personal impact on my family and me. I am always proud to see the MU Extension sign as I travel around the state and notice all the great spaces and opportunities created directly through this amazing organization. My goal as a council member is to advocate for and promote excellent community engagement and educational opportunities for everyone in St. Louis County," said Lovins.

Nancy McClain is an alumnus of the Neighborhood Leadership Academy, which led her to start attending the University of Missouri Council Extension meetings. She is very active in volunteering throughout the St. Louis region. Currently, she is a member of the West End Clinic, which helps with the growing drug problem in Missouri. She is the CFO of the #1 Fan Volunteer Agency, which provides volunteer assistance for various events in Missouri. "My goal as a member of the MU Extension Council of St. Louis County is to use my experience as a volunteer in the community to bring awareness of all the great benefits that the MU Extension has to offer. I look forward to being able to tell everybody about the positive impact that MU Extension has had on our community," said McClain.

The University of Missouri Extension Council in St. Louis County is the local link between county residents and the University of Missouri's four-campus system. Council members assist in planning and carrying out extension's educational efforts to improve people's lives. As public officials, MU Extension council members administer a local budget to support the educational priorities of the communities in the St. Louis Region. Members work throughout the year with staff members to plan and make recommendations for educational programs such as horticulture, business and industry, community development, youth development (4-H), and various continuing education courses, seminars, and workshops.

The St. Louis County Extension Council meets at 6:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of every month at the St. Louis County office. For more information about joining the Council, please contact Dwayne T. James at 314-400-7391 or [jamesdt@missouri.edu](mailto:jamesdt@missouri.edu).

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