



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT 2015 Highlights

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### Impact in 2015

Evaluating our engagement with residents, businesses, organizations and communities enables us to assess the effectiveness of our teaching and creative outputs and investment of our Extension resources. CD professionals organize their program efforts among OSU Extension's impact areas.

### ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- Over 170 exhibitors and licensed charter captains (roughly a quarter of all licensed captains in Ohio) learned fishery resource management, business management, laws, regulations, and marine technologies at the 34th Annual Ohio Charter Captains Conference. Partners include Ohio Sea Grant, the Lake Erie Charter Boat Association and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Of captains responding to a post event survey, 66% reported increasing profitability, and 96% reported improving their operation based on information presented at the conference.
- An economic development assessment along Ohio's Lake Erie shoreline, in partnership with the Lake Erie Marine Trades Association (LEMETA) and ODNR's Office of Coastal Management, enabled partner agencies to understand coastal marina business concerns, and how job creation, retention, and expansion efforts contribute to Ohio's Lake Erie coastal economies. Participating businesses indicated plans for new investment which translate into upwards of \$52,250 in additional income tax revenue to Ohio's coastal communities and an estimated \$790,790 to \$1,247,015 in personal income to Ohio's Lake Erie coastal counties.
- Extension CD faculty partnered with Purdue to deliver a two-day Business Retention and Expansion train-the-trainer program involving seventeen new regional CD Specialists and Educators from throughout Indiana. This training effort and resulting community programs in Indiana are being supported by a North Central Regional Center for Rural Development (NCRCRD) "Interstate" grant of \$5,000. Five Indiana communities will be selected in a Hometown Collaboration Initiative (HCI) in 2015, with the BR&E program being a major element.
- In partnership with the Vert Wert Community Improvement Corporation and local officials, Extension coordinated efforts with the State of Ohio Development Services Agency to certify the largest job-ready site in Ohio. The 1,600-acre site is fully prepared to attract an industrial user creating over 200 jobs in Northwest Ohio.
- In Fayette County, 26 local businesses partnered with Extension to conduct a county-wide Business Retention and Expansion Strategic program. Eight business retention and expansion roundtable discussions were held with the community's largest employers resulting in a better understanding of local issues and the generation of ideas for improvement.

## ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- Tourism, one of the fastest growing industry sectors in Ohio, accounts for nearly 9% of Ohio jobs and generates \$40 billion annually. To address a need for education and preparation among the tourism workforce, the Ohio Travel Association partnered with OSU Extension to identify educational gaps and pinpoint effective educational delivery methods enabling dialogue and collaboration with other state level organizations to foster job development and retention among Ohio's tourism workforce.
- A North Central Regional Center for Rural Development (NCRCD) grant enabled the development of a new BR&E curriculum and mobile application targeted to agribusiness. The collaborative effort engaged colleagues from Ohio, Iowa, Indiana, and a private sector partner and has been shared at five state, national and international conferences.
- Collaborating with chamber of commerce, community stakeholders and economic development directors of Highland, Clinton and Green counties, Community Economic Development Roundtables were conducted in partnership with the JobsOhio directors of state and regional teams and OhioMeansJobs county directors. Representatives of more than 25 businesses learned about the region's economic development prospects and challenges, and identified solutions for community and economic prosperity.

## ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- To address a growing audience of Ohio farmers considering on-farm photovoltaic solar systems to generate their own electricity, a new On-Farm Solar Energy Development curriculum was created, reaching more than 900 participants. Six farmers who have participated in the program have since developed an on-farm solar system to offset a portion of the electric needs for their farms. Combined, the six systems will generate roughly 130,000 kWh annually while offsetting nearly 197,626 (lbs. CO<sub>2</sub>e) Greenhouse Gases per year.
- To address nonpoint source pollution before it enters Lake Erie, improve regulation compliance, and increase dock sales, Ohio Sea Grant's Clean Marinas Program worked with 44 certified and 36 pledged Ohio marinas. Marinas in the Lake Erie watershed implemented a total of 206 best management practices.
- Working with Muskingum Township, OSU Extension secured funding for the township to complete riparian barrier formation along the Muskingum River in Washington County. By utilizing a modern Deep Injection Process by Uretek to stabilize the stream bank, continued erosion of the adjoining road base can be prevented. The initial investment of \$120,000 can help retain over \$1.5 million in property located along the road.
- Extension CD partnered with the new Miami County Food Council to plan a new shared-used community kitchen. A Food Summit drew over 80 people to learn about the impact of local foods and led to the creation of four new business partnerships and a Locavore Dinner engaged over 140 guests and volunteer participants in understanding how to prepare delicious locally-sourced foods.
- Global climate change is the most widely discussed environmental topic in the world. OSU Extension addressed the Ohio Climate Forum in Columbus and served on a panel to teach participants about current trends in global climate and outlook to 2050. Written materials include: Global Climate Change Update at <http://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/CDFS-203>.
- Extension Community Development has partnered with the City of Columbus in updating their Watershed Management Plan for the Upper Scioto and Big Walnut watersheds covering counties north of the City. Because of the high percentage of agricultural land in these watersheds, the issue of farm field runoff with resulting atrazine, nutrients, phosphorus and sediment entering the City's water resources has been a concern for Columbus' water quality. Through a \$35,000 sub-contract with CDM Smith Engineers, the project contractor, Extension has conducted research into effective agricultural management practices to reduce runoff and to formulate strategies to effectively collaborate with stakeholders in the watersheds.

## STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Research has shown that home buyer education and counseling is an effective way of reducing delinquency and safeguarding the American dream of home ownership for many. In Franklin County, OSU Extension has partnered with the City of Columbus to counsel 164 prospective home buyers.
- Recent shale gas development has spurred an increased interest in local giving, and Extension Community Development was there to help by providing guidance for a local anonymous donor to develop a plan for long-term giving. The conversations resulted in the establishment of a new endowment for the rural East Guernsey School District. There were 16 teachers and 600 students who were the beneficiaries of the first year endowment distribution of \$18,763.
- Extension partnered with two school districts and a private school to engage 36 students in a discussion of community, social and economic concerns as part of a Community Reconsidered Conversation.
- Ten participants in Leadership Fayette 2015 gained knowledge about their leadership styles and strength areas, public speaking and presentation, relationship building and group/teamwork skills.
- Extension Community Development's facilitation of comprehensive community health planning in collaboration with local leaders in two southern Ohio counties has helped them identify and address the most critical health and wellness needs for their residents. Highland and Clinton counties are currently in the fifth year of this multi-phase project which has provided the necessary data to encourage improved health services collaboration and demonstrate crucial health provider service gaps. Each of the counties has implemented a strategic plan focused on improving access to health care and creating awareness campaigns addressing community health concerns that have positively impacted issues such as the importance of prenatal care and the dangers of substance abuse.

## PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Extension CD, in partnership with Extension 4-H, piloted five experiential learning activities with 4-H youth ages 10-14 focused on identifying critical energy trends. After an introduction to photovoltaic solar energy and hands-on learning, every participant indicated that they gained a new understanding about energy challenges and energy trends. Most indicated they had not ever thought about how the electricity they depend on is generated. And, two-thirds of participants had no prior hands-on experience with photovoltaic cells prior to their involvement in this program.
- As part of a Manufacturing Day Celebration, over 150 tenth grade students from two school districts toured five local manufacturers and learned about manufacturing jobs and skills needed for those jobs in our community.
- Over 100 students gained knowledge about careers in Law Enforcement, Engineering, Logistics, and Health & Fitness at a career expo training.

## OSU EXTENSION COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONALS

Click on a name to view the staff page:

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Fayette County

### [Jill Bartolotta](#)

Extension Educator  
Ohio Sea Grant

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### ***Future CD Staffing:***

#### **Clermont County**

Program Coordinator

#### **Medina County**

County Extension Educator

#### **Field Specialist,**

Community & Organizational  
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