

2019 RAYMOND A. SCHINDLER EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EXTENSION AWARD

Gregory A. Davis

Throughout his 24-year career, Greg Davis has assisted communities, residents, volunteers, organizations, local governments, and OSU Extension field staff to develop and implement programs and tools to grow local capacity for community development and the implementation of better-informed community economic development strategies.

Excellence in Creative and Scholarly Work:

- Greg has published over eight fact sheets, bulletins, and technical reports, two chapters in edited books, and 11 journal articles.
- He has developed and been featured in numerous technology-driven outputs in the form of educational YouTube videos, website blogs, and web-based decision tools.
- From 1995 to 2010, Greg was responsible solely or in part for securing and managing 25 funded projects totaling more than \$535,000 to support research and education in Ohio, assisting in the creation, enhancement and/or delivery of core CD programs.
- As assistant director, Greg made funds available for CD educators to pursue collaborative projects. Since 2012, the CD Small Grant program has awarded over \$51,000 to support 14 projects.

Excellence in Teaching:

- Prior to becoming assistant director in 2010, Greg taught over 230 county programs reaching more than 3,080 participants.
- Greg was one of the early adopters, creators and promoters of the Business Retention and Expansion Program (BR&E), one of the mainstay programs in use today by CD educators. He went on to modernize and redevelop the curriculum with new tools and resources and was responsible for helping train other Extension educators to deliver the program spreading it to most of Ohio's counties. This program has been replicated by at least four other states and is known to be one of the oldest and most successful in the country.

Service to the Profession and Community:

- Greg has mentored countless colleagues through the promotion process by organizing and teaching programs, hosting monthly calls, establishing a website for FAQs, and holding one-on-one consultations.
- Greg was a founding member of the National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals (NACDEP), served as treasurer for four years, and was co-chair of the 2018 conference held in Cleveland.
- He has served several professional associations (state and national) and the university in a variety of capacities, most notably University Senate, Faculty Compensation and Benefits Committee of Faculty Council, OSU Extension Annual Conference co-chair, OSU Extension Promotion and Tenure Committee Chair, and OSU Extension Promotion and Tenure Committee Procedural Oversight Committee.

Additionally . . .

- He also fulfilled the community development mission by conducting research, teaching, and service in the Department of Agriculture, Environmental, and Development Economics (AEDE) focusing on empowering individuals, organizations, and communities to better understand their local economy and methods for improvement.
- Greg partnered with the Ohio Township Association and the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts to create their leadership academies, providing Extension CD educators a platform to deliver programs and foster partnerships for future collaborations.
- Greg also fostered long-standing partnerships with numerous regional and state community economic development organizations, including JobsOhio and Heritage Ohio.
- From 2010-2019, Greg provided leadership as the assistant director for OSU Extension Community Development, leading field-based educators to improve civic, environmental, and economic conditions throughout Ohio.
- Through Greg's efforts, in 2012 the Raymond A. Schindler Excellence in Community Development Extension Award was established in honor of Raymond A. Schindler, one of the first Extension community development professionals in Ohio. Greg's vision, drive, and leadership to establish the award perfectly summarizes his love, commitment, and service to the community development profession.

