

2021 RAYMOND A. SCHINDLER EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EXTENSION AWARD



Amanda P. Osborne

Amanda Osborne joined OSU Extension-Cuyahoga County as the Community Development Educator in September of 2015. She is responsible for planning, teaching, and evaluating educational programs that support the development of a sustainable local/regional food

system with a focus on building/enhancing systems and creating new economic development opportunities. She provides Extension leadership to the state food policy network and works to establish and foster collaborative opportunities with local, regional, state and national community development organizations. In addition, she conducts community data analysis, identifies and participates in research and mapping projects, and identifies and secures additional external funding.

Amanda has demonstrated excellence in the three pillars of Extension work - *Excellence in Creative and Scholarly Work, Excellence in Teaching, and Service to the Profession and Community* - in the following ways:

- Amanda has gained local, regional, and national recognition for her contributions to food incentive programs. She has taught thousands on a variety of topics and helped guide the development of the FreshLink model (farmers market data collection tool). This model has been disseminated nationally.
- She co-authored the Produce Perks Toolkit which has been used to train over 100 farmers market operators in Ohio.
- Amanda developed and piloted the WIC Perks incentive program in partnership with the Cuyahoga County FCS Educator providing 1,500 families with \$30,000 worth of fruit and vegetable coupons to low-income families.
- Her work is critical to the economic sustainability of regional farmers and has helped provide over \$664,000 of income via direct sales to Northeastern Ohio area farmers through incentive programs which has also provided access to fresh produce to 15,000 families.
- Amanda has served on the Ohio Nutrition Incentive Network (OH-NIN) steering committee since 2015. In addition to helping execute two national grants, she helped guide the expansion of the Produce Perks program across the state by providing expertise in capacity building, data collection, implementation, management processes, and

training with a focus on equity and economic development.

- Amanda is particularly gifted in explaining complex data sets and evaluation to lay persons. Her educational programs are constructed using a variety of data visualization techniques and are offered in a conversational approach.
- Amanda serves on the Ohio Food Policy Network (OFPN). She helps lead network communications and create educational opportunities to advance the network. She also serves on the OFPN Annual Summit planning committee, a convening that draws over 150 attendees each year.
- She has cultivated partnerships with the Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods (PRCHN), the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, and over 30 community-based farmers markets to ensure the success and continuation of the Produce Perks and Produce Prescription (PRx) programs in Cuyahoga County.
- She has developed strategic partnerships with Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services (ODJFS) and MetroHealth Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) to promote Produce Perks and farmers market utilization among low-income families. Much of her work (e.g., outreach plans, evaluation and data collection methods, and training materials) has been adopted at the state level by Produce Perks Midwest.



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