In 2012, Extension CD professionals created a cash award to recognize colleagues who have demonstrated significant programmatic strengths, major contributions, and innovative approaches achieved over the course of their Extension careers.

The Raymond A. Schindler Excellence in Community Development Extension Award winner must document long term strengths in teaching and research; exhibit a long-standing record of teamwork and collaboration in program planning, implementation and evaluation as well as a successful track record in grant awards, cost recovery, or other external funding. The awardee must also exhibit evidence of professional development and service to the profession. Their accomplishments must have value beyond their assigned work location.

Ray Schindler was one of the first Extension CD professionals in Ohio. Hired in 1962 as an Area Extension Agent, Ray began his career based in Hillsboro serving seven southern Ohio counties. He was then assigned the position of District Extension Specialist serving 17 Northwest Ohio counties headquartered in Fremont. He finished his career serving 16 Southeast Ohio counties based in Belle Valley, retiring in 1988. Interestingly, much of Ray’s early leadership and organization work continues on today: comprehensive planning, community facilities development, tourism and recreation, BR&E, environmental quality - on a community, county and/or multi-county basis. We thank Ray for his contributions to our profession, then and now.