

2008 NCRCRD Annual Report





North Central Regional Center for Rural Development

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Increase Capacity of Communities

Foundations of Practice

The Foundations of Practice: Community Development Core Competencies for Extension Professionals is a program delivered through the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development to enhance the core competencies of Extension professionals. The program is based on three major components:

- Understanding Communities and their Dynamics
- Developing Successful Community Initiatives
- Areas of Specialization and Emphasis

A total of 334 Extension professionals from 23 states have participated in at least one of the three components of the Foundations of Practice program. Evaluations have been conducted at the end of all programs and have been consistently positive. Overall, 95 percent of the participants were “favorable” or “very favorable” to the program.

Janet Ayres, professor and extension specialist at Purdue University, was contracted for a portion of her time by the NCRCRD to develop the Foundations of Practice program. Staff at the Center provides graphic design, web site development, marketing and course registration for the program.

All materials, including archives from Component One, are available at the following web site: <http://www.ncrcrd.iastate.edu/projects/corecomp/>.

Component One Instructors

- Phil Alexander – Michigan State University
- Janet Ayres – Purdue University, NCRCRD
- Tim Borich – Iowa State University
- Mary Emery – NCRCRD
- Jerry Hembd – University of Wisconsin
- Steve Jeanetta – University of Missouri
- Andy Lewis – University of Wisconsin
- Scott Loveridge – Michigan State University
- Bill Pinkovitz – University of Wisconsin
- Anne Heinze Silvis – University of Illinois

The second component of the Foundations of Practice program, Developing Successful Community Initiatives, focuses on the ability to carry out community development processes to achieve measurable impacts. A face-to-face workshop was held in Kansas City in November 2006 to train teams from each state in the following



Janet Ayres



Scott Hutcheson, IN

process skills—community development process, public participation, facilitation, participatory community change and evaluation—with the intention that the teams would then provide training in their respective states.

All 12 states in the North Central region sent a team for a total of 73 participants. A notebook of training materials was developed and made available to participants. Follow-up conference calls were held in spring 2007 to determine if states were using the materials and to share ideas, agendas and other materials. All 12 states had either offered, or were planning to offer, staff training on the process skills within the year.

Component Two Planning Committee

- Beverlyn Allen – Iowa State University
- Janet Ayres – NCRCRD, Purdue University
- Dan Kahl – Kansas State University
- Ken Martin – The Ohio State University
- Dan Oedekoven – South Dakota State University
- Donna Rae Scheffert – University of Minnesota
- Phyllis Schoenhulz – University of Nebraska
- Anne Heinze Silvis – University of Illinois
- Kathy Tweeten – North Dakota State University



(l-r) Ann Heinze Silvis, IL, and Sandy Scholl, IA

Component Two Instructors

- Janet Ayres – NCRCRD, Purdue University
- Chet Bowling – The Ohio State University
- Mary Ann G. Hennen – University of Minnesota
- Jody Horntvedt – University of Minnesota
- Mary Laeger-Hagemeister – University of Minnesota
- Ken Martin – The Ohio State University
- Anne Heinze Silvis – University of Illinois
- Kathy Tweeten – North Dakota State University



Dan Oedekoven, SD

The third component, Areas of Specialization and Emphasis, focuses on areas of specialization. The first program in this component was offered in fall 2007. It was a three-part series titled Managing Community Conflict. Enrollment was limited in order to maximize discussion. Participants were expected to read materials prior to the session, with assigned readings and activities between the sessions. A two-part series on Shared Leadership was offered in spring 2008. Additional sessions have been offered on housing and entrepreneurship. This past year we also offered a four-part series on coaching for community change with more than 29 participants, and are currently in the process of offering a three-part series on social capital with the Minnesota community vitality team.



Community Development On-line Master's Program

The Community Development On-line Master's Program is opening doors for working, adult and Native students who could not find the curriculum they needed and wanted in other community development programs. It provides the skills, information and networks needed to facilitate sustainable and prosperous community change. In addition to the core courses, the program includes four specialization tracks: Natural Resource Management, Working with Native Communities, Building Economic Capacity, and Non-Profit Leadership. To date, we have graduated two students and several more will graduate this spring. For FY 08 the program had 337 course registrations (duplicated headcount).

The NCRCRD has been integral to the development of the Community Development On-line Master's Program, a program of the Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance. Participating universities are Iowa State University, Kansas State University, the University of Nebraska, North Dakota State University, and South Dakota State University.

Faculty members continue to work with the NCRCRD to enhance the curricular base of this program. A monthly newsletter, titled CD News, is published electronically by the NCRCRD to provide faculty, students and those interested in the program with additional information and resources. More information is available at <http://www.gpidea.org/prospective/community/cdProgram.html>.



Geographical breakdown of students in the Community Development On-line Master's Program, Fall 2005 – Spring 2008



Community Development Society 2008 Innovation Program Award

In recognition of a superior innovative program using the principles of good practice as adopted by the Society, and 2009 Student Recognition Award.

Iowa Distance Learning Association 2008 Points of Presence Award

In recognition of an outstanding distance education program serving learners within, but not limited to, Iowa. Celebrates excellence in program design and implementation, and its impact on learners and their community.

Coaching for Community and Organizational Change

Coaching for Community Change is introducing a new way of approaching community development work. While many of the coaching for community change efforts have been connected to specific Foundation-led initiatives, Extension is now also involved in coaching for community change efforts, including the Rural Community College Initiative (MN, NE, ND), Energizing Entrepreneurs (MI), Horizons (MN, IA, SD, ND) and HomeTown Competitiveness (NE). A number of Extension staff have participated in convenings around coaching for community change, and the data from those convening will be used to create a Field Guide for Coaching for Community Change. A four session Foundations of Practice program was offered on coaching with positive results. A number of states have used portions of the curriculum in their own training.

eXtension

In many communities across the nation, entrepreneurship is emerging as a critical strategy to complement the industrial recruitment and business retention and expansion efforts of communities. Not only are entrepreneurs a growing segment of the employment base of urban areas, they are expanding at a hefty pace in rural areas as well. The important challenge that these communities face is finding a way to uncover, nurture and support the hidden talents that exist in these communities already. Land-grant faculty and staff from across the region have joined the initial Entrepreneurs and their Communities Community of Practice, to become the second largest community of practice in eXtension, including more than 60 from the North Central region alone, representing 11 states. This year the CoP is providing monthly webinars on related topics.

This past year the Center took the lead in submitting a proposal to the Economic Development Administration for a national training grant focused on their Know Your Region curriculum. We have trained 20 people to work on this project and have a number of training programs set up.

Reach Under-served and New Populations

The Center's work on reaching under-served populations this past year has centered around continuing to develop strong relationships with the 1994s, brokering relationships among 1862s and 1994s, and expanding the work on immigrants and communities in the region.

During this past year, NCRCRD again provided a liaison function with FALCON (First Americans Land-grant College Organization and Network) and presented on Appreciative Inquiry at their annual conference. In addition, NCRCRD has partnered with College of Menominee Nation on their tribal research project on sustainable indicators for tribal colleges.

During FY08, the Center identified a number of scholars and extension educators currently working in the area of immigrants and communities with an emphasis on Latino communities. The Center convened people from eight states in the region who identified common themes, research questions and outreach opportunities. As a result of the meeting, a small group drafted and submitted a proposal to the North Central deans and director for an NCERA committee, which was approved.

Latino Farmer Training and Business Development

Food businesses in Marshalltown, Iowa, are interested in buying locally grown food to offer fresher products and support the local economy, according to a survey conducted by the North Central Regional Center of Rural Development in cooperation with the Marshalltown Chamber of Commerce. According to Claudia Prado-Meza, Sustainable Agriculture graduate student at Iowa State University, “More than 50 percent of the businesses have bought products from local farmers, and 73 percent would like to have more opportunities to establish new or stronger links with local producers.”

Lack of supply is one main reason that Marshalltown restaurants and markets do not currently sell more locally grown food. To increase the supply of locally grown food, Marshalltown is growing its farmers to produce fruit, vegetables and small diversified crops and livestock.

Marshalltown Community College offered an eight-week bilingual (Spanish/English) session for area residents that want to start farming and selling their products in the local area. Not only did the students learn how to grow food organically, they also have the opportunity to lease organically certified land at MCC and access to micro loans through the Iowa Foundation for Local Enterprise and the Farm Credit Agency. Eighteen students have completed the training, and 12 of them will start farming on the MCC organic farm. Students came from diverse backgrounds, including individuals born in Sudan, Iowa and Mexico, as well as the land manager of the Mesquaki Settlement. Because the new farmers held other jobs that kept them very busy, the classes also served as family time, with activities for the children to introduce them to farming as well.



(l-4) Jack Payne, IA, and Tom Coon, MI

Convene Research Groups

During the past year the Center facilitated the submission of the proposal to develop an NCERA on immigrants and communities. In addition, we have supported the submission of a proposal for an integrated project on the impact of community projects on community social capital. This project will be resubmitted this month, and we expect it to be approved in June. The Center has also facilitated a small group from FALCON interested in working on a proposal to look at the role of community and culture in successful obesity prevention projects.

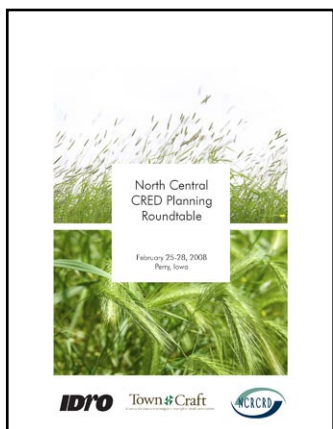


(l-4) John Conglose, OH, and Mary Simon Leuci, MO

North Central CRD Planning Roundtable

What are the implications of an aging population for rural communities in the North Central region? How can the region integrate a growing immigrant population into its communities? What impact is the bioeconomy having on water quality, land use and transportation in the region? These are just some of the questions addressed during a North Central Community Resources and Economic Development Planning Roundtable held February 25-28, 2008, in Perry, Iowa. Two featured speakers touched on future trends in the region, followed by facilitated panel discussions among researchers and Extension program leaders. This included identifying gaps existing between the research base and Extension programming.

The roundtable was hosted by the NCRCRD, the Iowa State University Institute for Design Research and Outreach, and the TownCraft Center in Perry.



Agricultural Diversity and Community Well-being

In collaboration with the Economic Research Service, the NCRCRD has undertaken a research project looking at the extent that agricultural diversity is associated with community well-being. Indicators of well-being include unemployment, poverty, average income, Gini coefficient to measure inequality in income, and migration. One goal of this research is to examine the relationship between agricultural diversity and well-being. The presence of a strong positive relationship between the two may offer strategy to policies attempting to improve well-being in rural communities. Also, the development of a model in this research may prove predictive in determining areas where more resources may need to be reallocated for improving well-being.

Correlations show that the greatest association between agricultural diversity and the individual indicators of well-being is with migration. This relationship shows that in-migration and a lesser degree of out-migration occurs in the more diverse counties. These correlations are statistically significant for the entire state, and for the non-metro counties.

The Communities Impact of Ethanol Production

The NCRCRD will join with Regional Research Committee NC-506, Sustainability of Corn Ethanol, to help coordinate the social science efforts on impacts of newer plants on rural areas. With the rapid rise in petroleum prices and the associated rise in gasoline prices, production of alternative fuels including ethanol from corn and other feedstocks has received renewed interest. In the North Central region, this is manifest by the design, construction and operation of numerous new ethanol production plants.

Encourage Use of Evaluation Tools

Northeast Iowa Food and Fitness Initiative

The NCRCRD is evaluating the investments made and mechanisms in place to measure the extent to which the Food and Fitness Initiative is moving closer to its vision for Northeast Iowa. That living vision, as currently articulated, is to make Northeast Iowa a “unique region where healthier people are creating stronger families and vibrant communities. All residents and guests experience, promote and celebrate healthy, locally grown food and abundant opportunities for physical activity and play everyday.” These five counties in Northeast Iowa received a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to development a community action plan.

The NCRCRD completed another evaluation of a community change initiative by working with the Community Progress Initiative in Wisconsin to look at how CPI has made a difference in the community, what impact it has had, and what the next steps might be.



Jerry Hembd, WI

Create an Effective Organization

Community Capitals Framework Institute

The Annual Community Capitals Framework Institute was held November 13-14, 2008, in Ames, Iowa. The Institute focused broadly on the past and future use of the Community Capitals Framework, particularly in relation to systems approaches to change. This is the fifth consecutive year that the NCRCRD has held a Community Capitals Framework Institute to provide a forum for rural and community develop-

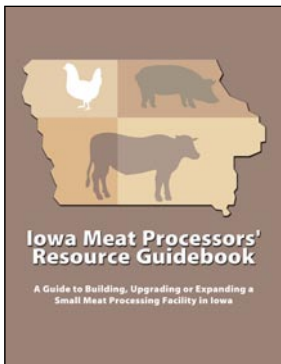


(r) Mary Emery, Community Capitals Framework Institute

ment researchers and practitioners to share their work using the CCF. A number of participants have used the CCF in their thesis or dissertation work, and NCRCRD staff has also begun using this with 4-H groups.

The Center's work in developing the Community Capitals Framework has spawned a number of exciting initiatives across the country in helping Extension and other agencies map both input into program development and outcomes and impact. NCRCRD staff has worked with a variety of organizations to go beyond tracing the impact of programs on individuals, to tracing the ripple effect of the program on the community.

Small Meat Processors Working Group



Efforts are underway to expand this working group to include all 12 states in the North Central region.



Arion Thiboumery

There was a time when many rural communities supported a small meat processing plant, where farmers could get hogs or calves butchered for family and friends, or hunters could get wild game processed. These businesses also rented lockers where customers could store large quantities of meat in the days before refrigeration. In 1965, Iowa had more than 450 small meat processing plants, compared to less than 150 today. However, recent consumer interest in locally raised organic and natural meat is increasing the demand for meat processing facilities.

A team of researchers, entrepreneurs, regulators and producer groups hopes to change the Iowa landscape for small, independent meat processors. The team is called the Small Meat Processors Working Group, supported by the Value Chain Partnerships project that is coordinated by the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State University. They have published a Guidebook that explains the resources available at the local, state and national levels to assist small Iowa meat processors who seek to begin, upgrade or expand their businesses. The book also explains the necessary business and regulatory steps, and where to find guidance for each step.

The Small Meat Processors Working Group is coordinated by ISU graduate student Arion Thiboumery, who is working with the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development at ISU. Members include owners of several Iowa lockers as well as representatives from the Iowa Meat Processors Association, ISU's Center for Industrial Research and Service and ISU Extension (meat science and value added agriculture), Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, the Meat and Poultry Inspection Bureau of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and Iowa Department of Economic Development.

The Iowa Meat Processors' Resource Guidebook: A Guide to Building, Upgrading or Expanding a Small Meat Processing Facility in Iowa is available at <http://www.ncrcrd.iastate.edu/pubs/contents/189.htm>.

Niche Meat Processor Assistance Network

The mission of the Niche Meat Processor Assistance Network is to strengthen and expand slaughter and processing capacity, nationwide, for niche meats—such as locally grown, certified organic, grass-fed, no antibiotics/added hormones, and certified humane. The approach used will be to build a network of technical experts and advisors, backed by a comprehensive resource database, to improve support for niche meat processors and the producers and consumers who depend on them.

This project is supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Heifer International, and the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development. Affiliates in the North Central region are Michelle Worosz at Michigan State University, Terry VanDerPol with the Land Stewardship Project in Minnesota, Karl Hoppe at North Dakota State University Extension, and Pam Saunders with Organiz Valley/CROPP Co-op in Wisconsin.

Extension is Center's Major Partner in Delivery

Extension is one of the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development's major partners in delivery. We have developed a strong liaison role with Extension's community resource development program leaders in the 12 states in the region. Monthly conference calls, e-mail updates and face-to-face meetings link the Center to the liaisons—and the liaisons to each other. It is an opportunity to focus on current issues in the region and opportunities to gain greater efficiencies by working together on multistate programming.

With the increased need to work collaboratively across state lines with limited resources, the North Central region Community Resource Development program leaders and the NCRCRD developed logic models and cross-cutting indicators for four program areas delivered across the region—leadership development, community economic development, organizational development, and participatory community planning.

IL – Jeri Marxman
IN – Sam Cordes, Scott Hutcheson
IA – Tim Borich, Dan Otto
KS – Pat Murphy, Dan Kahl
MI – Scott Loveridge
MN – Dick Senese
MO – Mary Simon Leuci
NE – Rick Koelsch
ND – Kathy Tweeten
OH – John Conglose
SD – Joanne Haase
WI – Tom Blewett



Jeri Marxman, IL



Kathy Tweeten, ND

FALCON

The NCRCRD has developed a relationship with FALCON, the First Americans Land-grant College Organization and Network, and has acted as a liaison between the 1994s and the Regional Rural Development Centers. We have also worked to create additional bridges between the 1994s and the 1862s.



Rural Development News

Rural Development News is a quarterly newsletter published by the NCRCRD. Each issue provides a summary of research and educational activities conducted and supported by the Center. Hard copy of the newsletter is distributed to nearly 4,500 individuals. RD News is also available electronically at <http://www.ncrcrd.iastate.edu/rdn.html>.

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Pam Cooper, Administrative Assistant

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Matthew Hoffman, Research Assistant

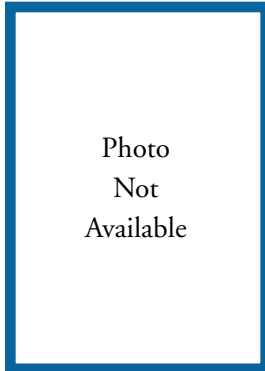
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Arion Thiboumery, Research Assistant

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Research Service



Walt Armbruster

Farm Foundation



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Mary Simon Leuci

University of
Missouri



Sally Ward Maggard

USDA-CSREES,
Economic and
Community Systems



Ken Martin

Ohio State
University



Jack Payne

Iowa State University



Richard Todd

Federal Reserve Bank
of Minneapolis

Land-grant Universities in the North Central Region

● 1862 Land-grant Universities

University of Illinois
Urbana, IL

Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN

Iowa State University
Ames, IA

Kansas State University
Manhattan, KS

Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI

University of Minnesota
St. Paul, MN

University of Missouri
Columbia, MO

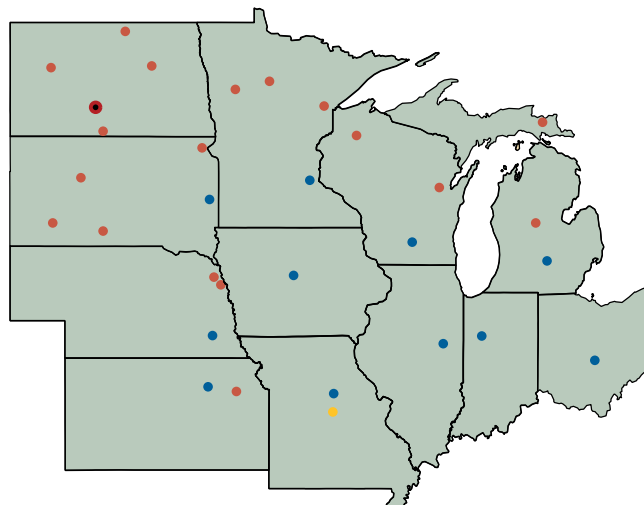
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, NE

North Dakota State University
Bismarck, ND

The Ohio State University
Columbus, OH

South Dakota State University
Brookings, SD

University of Wisconsin
Madison, WI



White Earth Tribal and Community College
Mahnomen, MN

Nebraska Indian Community College
Macy, NE

Little Priest Tribal College
Winnebago, NE

Turtle Mountain Community College
Belcourt, ND

United Tribes Technical College
Bismarck, ND

Cankdeska Cikana Community College
Fort Totten, ND

Sitting Bull College
Fort Yates, ND

Fort Berthold Community College
New Town, ND

Si Tanka
Eagle Butte, SD

Oglala Lakota College
Kyle, SD

Sinte Gleska University
Mission, SD

Sisseton Wahpeton College
Sisseton, SD

Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College
Hayward, WI

College of Menominee Nation
Keshena, WI

● 1890 Historically Black Land-grant University

Lincoln University
Jefferson City, MO

● 1994 Tribal Land-grant Universities

Haskell Indian Nations University
Lawrence, KS

Bay Mills Community College
Brimley, MI

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College
Mount Pleasant, MI

Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College
Cloquet, MN

Leech Lake Tribal College
Cass Lake, MN

