Dear Southwest Region Educators and Staff:

Congratulations on all the excellent and exciting work going on in the Southwest Region! I am impressed!! We’ve had great results reported from the Farm Bill, PAT and fertilizer training. The Million Hearts, 4-H Professional Update and STEM In Service heavily involved our Educators. Several have been involved in state conferences. And on and on!! I KNOW you all are extremely busy and we appreciate the extra time and efforts of all of you. We have completed 3 sets of Educator interviews and have 2 more sets this month. Thanks for all you do!

Take time for your loved ones this week! Make Valentine’s Day one to remember!!

Best Always!
Barb

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**Courtesy Reminder**

Please remember to extend professional courtesy to your peers when teaching in their county. Always let the local Extension office staff know if you are invited to teach or present in their county. No one likes to be caught by surprise! This goes for all Extension personnel. Thanks!

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We want to welcome back Carol Bottoms from her leave.
Happy February Birthdays…

- February 1  Katie Schroeder-Program Assistant, Montgomery County
- February 12  Amanda Douridas- Extension Educator, Union County
- February 15  Barb Brahm- Interim Southwest Region Director
- February 21  Carolyn Allen-Program Assistant, Clark County
- February 22  Jamie Seger-Extension Educator, Miami County

ESC Conference Proposal Deadline: March 20

The 2015 Engagement Scholarship Consortium Conference is taking place on September 29 and 30 at Penn State. While registration doesn't open until May, you may now submit your proposals for posters, paper symposia, and workshops. This year the conference theme is addressing advancing rigor and elevating the impact of engagement scholarship. Proposals should provide insight and research on one or more of the five conference imperatives:

- Rigorous scholarship
- Impact measurement
- Institution-wide involvement
- Reciprocal inspiration
- Diversity efforts and impacts

For more information and to submit a proposal, please visit the conference website. The submission deadline is Friday, March 20, 2015.

Travel Training

All,

Marie Peterson, Travel and PCard Manager, has offered to bring Corporate Travel Services to CFAES for training for users and fiscal and support staff. She has offered Thursday, February 19 from 1:00-3:00 for the training. The agenda would cover, among other items,

- eTravel overview
- New website for travel usage
- Walkthrough of Concur, which is software to make travel reservations.

Please let others in your departments know of this training, and in the next week or so let me know who will be attending. In order to ensure best use of CTP’s time, we need to have a large enough number of attendees or we will cancel and let another college have the time set aside for CFAES. For those in Wooster, we could use video conference.

Thanks.
Brian McClain
All Outreach and Engagement Community:

We wanted to let you know that proposals are now being accepted for the 2015 Engagement Scholarship Consortium Conference. This is a great opportunity to share your engagement work at a national conference. This year’s conference will be held at Penn State at the end of September.

The deadline to submit a proposal is March 20. For more information about submitting a proposal and to read about Ohio State’s participation at last year’s conference, visit http://outreach.osu.edu/newslist-items/esc2015.html.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks!
Ben Lewis

Valentine’s Day is this Saturday. Don’t forget to do something to honor the special people in your life. The following article not only applies to people in your work environment, but to family and friends.

An excerpt from
from Love is a Verb
by Glenn Van Ekeren

In spite of our supersonic generation, high-tech wizardry, and computer gadgetry, there is no technical tool equal to praise.” —Jerry D. Twentier

Upon accepting an award, Jack Benny once remarked, “I really don’t deserve this. But I have arthritis, and I don’t deserve that either.”

Wouldn’t it be great if appreciation would become as natural to give as undesirable life experiences were to contract? How many times do small, seemingly insignificant actions go unnoticed? The doers of such tasks feel they would be better off getting attention in unacceptable ways.

Consider the employee who came in late one morning only to be greeted by his supervisor who says, “Sam, you’re late!”
Sam goes about his duties thinking, “So that’s what I need to do to get noticed. Day in and day out I do my job without anyone paying any attention. Come in late and finally, they know I’m working here.”

People want to believe their efforts deserve praise, and they are willing to go to great lengths to receive it. Yet, expressing appreciation is one of the most neglected acts in relationships. When you observe people doing good things, let them know you recognize it. How? Glad you asked. Here are some simple phrases that will help you praise people and encourage them to repeat their positive behavior:

I appreciate the way you...
I’m impressed with...
You’re terrific, because...
Thanks for going all out when you...
One of the things I enjoy most about you is...
I admire your...
Great job with...
I really enjoy working with you because...
Our team couldn’t be successful without your...
Thank you for your...
You made my day when...
You can be proud of your...
You did an outstanding job of...
It’s evident you have the ability to...
I like your...
You deserve a pat on the back for...
You should be proud of yourself for...
I admire the way you take the time to...
You’re really good at...
You’ve got my support with...
What a great idea!
It’s evident you have a special knack of...
You were a great help when...
You have a special gift for...
I enjoy being with you because you...
You’re doing a top-notch job of...
It’s fun watching you...
I know you can do it!
I believe in you...
Your commitment to _____ is appreciated!

The power of positive praise is limited only by its lack of use. How many people do you know who could benefit from a sincere “congratulations” or “great job” or possibly even “you’re the best?” Silent appreciation doesn’t mean much. Let others know your positive regards toward them. They’ll live up to your compliment.

Samuel Goldwyn said, “When someone does something good, applaud! You will make two people happy.” Take time to look through that list of phrases you can use to applaud people. Use them frequently. Find additional ways to praise and increase people’s good feelings about themselves. You’ll be happy you did.
Dear Outreach and Engagement Community:

Many of you have heard the great news that the Carnegie Foundation once again has recognized Ohio State as an “Engaged University.” Please note that because the Ohio State Engagement Report that we submitted to Carnegie for the reclassification process was in response to specific questions with space constraints, the Report provides but a snapshot of the incredible breadth and scope of Ohio State engagement activities. As a starting point, the Report serves as a database of engagement activities and provides web links to many of your respective units. The plan is to continue updating this document.

I would encourage you to have teams or county programs submit for the OE awards at [http://outreach.osu.edu](http://outreach.osu.edu) Those submissions are due Feb 16. That is a good way to get on the Office of OE’s radar to be included in reports like this or other conversations/reports.

NCR-SARE Announces 2015 Call for Professional Development Program Proposals

The 2015 North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program’s (NCR-SARE) Professional Development Program Call for Proposals is now available online at [http://www.northcentralsare.org/Grants/Our-Grant-Programs/Professional-Development-Grant-Program](http://www.northcentralsare.org/Grants/Our-Grant-Programs/Professional-Development-Grant-Program)

NCR-SARE’s Professional Development Program (PDP) provides funds for professional development projects that provide sustainable agriculture training to agricultural professionals and educators in the Cooperative Extension Service (CES), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), other governmental agencies, and educators in the profit and non-profit sector serving the food and fiber system.

Projects can be up to three years in duration, and funding level is capped at $75,000 total for each project, but projects requesting less than full amount are encouraged. Approximately $675,000 will be available for funding projects.

A special aspect of the 2015 NCR-SARE PDP call for proposals is that up to $450,000 of the total pool of funds is available for projects focused on cover crops and soil health. More details can be found in the call for proposals. Proposals on other topics relevant to sustainable agriculture will also be considered for funding.

Any questions regarding the NCR-SARE Professional Development Grant Program should be addressed to PDP Regional Coordinator, Dr. Rob Myers at 573-882-1547 or [myersrob@missouri.edu](mailto:myersrob@missouri.edu)

The deadline for proposals is 4:00 pm CDT on Thursday, April 2, 2015.