Dear Southwest Region Educators and Staff:

I hope you have been successful at keeping cool – Wow! It has been hot out there lately!

Happy Staff Appreciation Week to each of you! What a joy to have the opportunity to work with each of you in the Southwest Region! We have incredible Educators and staff. You each have special and unique skills that you bring to the workplace. That’s what makes you great! Please know that my life has been enriched by knowing and working with you. You are very much appreciated by your clientele and Extension co-workers. Thanks so much for all you do to make our organization great. And thanks for being you! I encourage you to do something special as a county team this week to have fun and appreciate each other.

Remember . . .

"Challenges are what make life interesting. Overcoming them is what makes life meaningful." ~ Anonymous

"Attitude and endurance separates those who do succeed from those who want to succeed." ~ Anonymous

Have a great week as we head into August. Enjoy the fair! Please note that I will be at Marblehead Monday – Wednesday this week on a retreat with the RD’s. I should be available off and on throughout the day. Or text or leave a message on my cell phone.

Live Inspired!

Barb
"Open your mind up to things that have no connection with the problems you're trying to solve: -- Subscribe to an unusual magazine; go to work two hours early; test-drive an exotic car; try an Indonesian recipe." Roger von Occh

This work of making positive change for adults, children and youth takes huge amounts of creativity. Not just long hours and patience. Here’s your hall pass: Go do something silly. Now!

Easy Ways for Teams to Celebrate
Invite spouses and children to come to the workplace. Have each team plan activities that help explain the team’s work.

Director’s Drop-In

Last week, I had the opportunity to participate in the annual Roads Scholar bus tour of Ohio coordinated by the Office of Outreach and Engagement designed to help new faculty and administrators learn about OSU’s impact on the state of Ohio. Our tour began early Thursday morning with a visit to WOSU studios located at COSI in downtown Columbus.

Our first stop was at the Transportation Research Center at East Liberty. We were able to take the bus on the 7.5-mile oval test track used for performance testing by the automotive industry.

(We did not "crash test" the bus, but we were introduced to the latest model of crash test dummies.) We then headed north to Unverferth manufacturing, The Anderson’s, Toledo Zoo, Toledo Art Museum, and Cooper Tire. It was impressive to see how many OSU alums were employed at each of these facilities. Along the way, I had a chance to tell the story of the creation of the land grant university system and provide passengers with an overview of OSU Extension. Meanwhile, another bus full of OSU students, student-athletes, and Brutus took another route to Toledo, eventually meeting up with our bus at the Zoo for an advancement event with alumni and other supporters. The students paid a visit to Rufenacht Family Farms in Fulton County where they learned about contemporary agriculture. Thanks to Eric Richer and the Fulton County team for arranging for that visit. Later that day, the students visited Sylvania Family Services, the Choice Food Pantry, and learned about the Master Gardener Volunteer program in Lucas County. Thanks to Patrice Powers-Barker, Amy Stone and the rest of the Lucas County team for their role in setting up those visits.
Carmen Irving

I started with Extension in October 2013, so I am just nearing my 3rd anniversary. I began my career as the Healthy Relationships Program Specialist for Family and Consumer Sciences. This was a thrilling opportunity to blend my experiences in direct service with at-risk families and my content expertise in Human Development and Family Studies. During my time in this role our team rolled out the Successful Co-Parenting curriculum and identified the need for an aging initiative within Family and Consumer Sciences. In the spring of 2015 the Union County Family and Consumer Sciences Educator position became available. As much as I enjoyed my work in the State Office an opportunity to work in my home county was all too tempting! I currently hold a 25% appointment as the Leader for the Successful Co-Parenting Signature Program and a 75% appointment as an Educator where I primarily focus on parenting and strengthening families.

I live in Marysville, Ohio with my husband Mike, my two teens, Nick (freshman) and Madeline (7th grader) and our Double Doodle, Winnie. It seems that two teens makes for a life spent mostly in the minivan—bustling to sport’s practices, afterschool activities (including 4-H), and picking up friends. Mike is a microbiologist and works for Nestle—he spends quite a bit of his time traveling globally to ensure product safety. On those occasions that we are all home together we enjoy renovating our family home on Catawba Island, hiking, playing board games and watching movies.

I attended Miami University for my undergraduate work where I studied Human Development and Family Studies and eventually met my husband. Before I knew it we were married and moving across the country for Mike’s job. During this time I did a blend of part-time work with at-risk families and stayed at home with the kiddos. Eventually I worked as the Youth Development Director for the YMCA. It was this position that encouraged me to pursue my Master’s degree. So, when my daughter began kindergarten I, too, went to school and earned my Master’s in Human Development concentrating on positive youth development. As soon as I graduated from Kent State University I began with Ohio State University Extension.

I am grateful for a rewarding and challenging position that allows me to work in my field empowering families while simultaneously working with bright, innovative, passionate and committed community partners and Extension colleagues. I am appreciative for the opportunities that have been presented to me in my short time in Extension and I look forward to a fulfilling future.
New Impact Areas
Thanks to those of you who submitted now, however, you can consider the six impact areas as the new domains of activity around which we will organize our communications to our many stakeholders.

Comments and suggestions regarding the new Impact Areas for OSU Extension. These comments were very helpful in making the decision to consider the wording of the six draft impact areas as final. As a reminder, the six new impact areas are:

Health and Wellness
Job Skills and Careers
Thriving across the Life Span
Sustainable Food Systems
Engaged Ohioans, Vibrant Communities
Environmental Quality

There was considerable interest in developing descriptive language for each of the impact areas that would further define the nature and scope of our work in each area. Others suggested adding "action words" to each phrase. Each of these suggestions has significant merit and we will consider doing both as we begin using the impact areas in various communication pieces and reports.

Business Operations Center (BOC) Reminders . . .
Visit the following links to review changes that took effect July 1
- PCard Procedure Changes – July 1, 2016
- Travel Procedure Changes – July 1, 2016
- Changes to Expense Accounts (Standard Expense Account Numbers)

Due by July 29, 2016: (see email from Cindy Buxton on 7/5/16)
- Bank Reconciliation Form and June Bank Statement
- Annual Physical Inventory and Equipment Review Report

YouTube Videos Posted:
- Sales Tax at OSU
- PCard Video
- Overnight Travel Post-Trip
- Overnight Travel Pre-Trip