Dear Southwest Region Educators and Staff:

We are getting into March and “spring things” are beginning to happen! One of those things is promotion. Over 25% of our Extension Educators in the Southwest Region are currently in the promotion process or have shared their intent to enter the process this spring. And two of our Educators recently received notice of their . . .

**Promotion to Educator IV effective September 1, 2016:**
Patty House – Clark County 4-H Educator
Margaret Jenkins – Clermont County FCS Educator

Note: An A & P Dossier Workshop for Educators applying for promotion will be held on Tuesday, March 8 from 9 am till Noon at the Green County Office. All are welcome.

**CED Calibration and Update**
Top of Ohio EERA – Monday, March 14, 9 am – Noon, Champaign County Extension Office
Miami Valley EERA – Tuesday, March 15, 9 am – Noon, Montgomery County Extension Office

**Spring Conference for Educators and Program Assistants (Not SNAP or EFNEP) – April 29, Champaign County Extension Office,**
Thanks to Pat Holmes, Barb Hennard, Tracie Montague, Steve Brady, Rebecca Supinger, and Betty Wingerter for volunteering earlier to serve on the Spring Conference committee. If you also would like to serve on this committee to help plan spring conference, please contact Barb Brahm by March 10. The committee will meet by conference call on Friday, March 11 from 1 – 2:30 pm. All ideas are welcome!

See rest on next page.
Happy March Birthdays…

- March 3 Suzanne Mills-Wasniak-Extension Educator, Montgomery County
- March 10 Patti Holbrook-Office Assistant, Clark County
- March 16 Christy Leeds-Educator/Director, Union County
- March 21 Jenny Even -Extension Educator, Hamilton County
- March 25 Brenda Sandman-Stover–Program Assistant, Greene County

Spring Conference for Support Staff – March 23, Champaign County Extension Office
Patty will be sending out registration for the conference shortly. Please work with your support staff so they can attend this special conference designed just for them.

Live with Intention!!

Best Regards,
Barb

New Staff
Ann Foxworthy, Office Associate, Clinton
Trevor Corboy, Program Coordinator for CD, Clermont County
Sara Creamer, Program Assistant, FCS, Fayette County

"Laughter is timeless. Imagination has no age. And dreams are forever."
~ Walt Disney

"There is never a better measure of what a person is than what he does when he's absolutely free to choose." ~ William M. Bulger

"Don't worry about getting ready, get started." ~ Anonymous

Barb Brahm’s Schedule

- March 7 Campus
- March 8 Greene/Delaware
- March 9 Delaware/Campus
- March 10 Campus
- March 11 Campus
- March 12 Ohio 4-H Conference

Easy Ways for Teams to Celebrate
Have a good news hour once a month. Team members share personal or professional “good news” about themselves or co-workers.
Kathy Michelich has served as a FCS Extension Educator in Warren County for over 25 years. She specializes in resource management. Primarily, she teaches life skills, including basic money management and consumerism, to low-income and incarcerated individuals. Her curriculum on serving people in poverty has been offered at state conferences and in five counties.

Kathy has served as the state coordinator of *Real Money. Real World.* (RMRW) since August 2011. At that time, 49 counties provided RMRW. Now, as RMRW graduates off Signature Program status, over 20,000 youth in 76 counties provide this widely recognized Extension program.

Over the years, Kathy has authored or co-authored a number of OSU Extension publications including: *Tough Work, In Over Your Head*, the 2013 version of *Real Money. Real World.*, and *the Homebuyer’s Guide.*

She serves on the Warren County Community Services Board, the Suicide Prevention Coalition of Warren and Clinton Counties, the Facility Governing Board for Community Correctional Center for Butler, Clermont, and Warren Counties, the Family Self-Sufficiency committee for Warren County Metropolitan Housing and the Ohio Council for Economic Education.

Kathy, and her husband Scott, live on 5 acres in Morrow with one fat cat. They enjoy regular “long-distance visits” with their son, daughter-in-law and 7 month-old grandson who live in Florida. In her personal time, Kathy loves creative writing and recently published the novel, *Let Me Lead* under the pen name Kathleen Sutton. Her story, *Life Breathed in Bits*, won over 65 other entries in the 2015 Clermont County Library short story contest.
JCEP Award for Creative Excellence

This new award has been created by JCEP to recognize Extension professionals that are innovative and creative. If you have a novel approach to existing or emerging issues that gets results, and others want to copy, then this award is meant for you!

NEAFCS members can apply by going to www.JCEP.org and completing the online application. The NEAFCS award **deadline is May 1**. The winner will be chosen by our national board and announced at our Annual Session at Big Sky, Montana.

Each JCEP Association's winner will receive a $250 stipend and will compete with the other JCEP association winners for a $1,000 stipend to be presented at the 2017 JCEP Leadership Conference in Orlando, FL. We can't wait to see who the winner is!

Extension A&P Educators and Faculty

If you are considering submitting a signature program proposal, the first step is to discuss this with your Assistant Director or Associate Director, Programs. You are encouraged to initiate this discussion in March and **submit a Logic Model Worksheet by April 1**. Download and complete the “Signature Program Logic Model Worksheet” outlining/identifying program goals and objectives, inputs, outputs, and outcomes [http://go.osu.edu/SPlmw](http://go.osu.edu/SPlmw) to use as the basis for your discussions. You will be directed to upload this completed logic model worksheet pdf with your online proposal.

Following the discussions with the Assistant Director(s) and/or the Associate Director, Programs, the completed proposal should be submitted online at the Signature Program online RFP site [http://go.osu.edu/SPrfp](http://go.osu.edu/SPrfp) **by May 1**.

The submitted proposals will be forwarded to Administrative Cabinet and to the Signature Program proposal review committee for review. A copy of the Signature Program Guidelines are located online at: [http://go.osu.edu/SPguidelines](http://go.osu.edu/SPguidelines)

Sincerely,

Ken Martin