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**North Central  
Cooperative Extension Association**

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**MEMBERS:** University of Illinois; Iowa State University; Kansas State University; Lincoln University, Missouri; Michigan State University; University of Minnesota; University of Missouri; University of Nebraska; North Dakota State University; Ohio State University; Purdue University; South Dakota State University; University of Wisconsin-Extension



## **NCCEA Mini Grants – Project Summaries**

One-time funds are available to increase the capacity of North Central Region – Cooperative Extension Program Areas to meet their goals, and to leverage further resources. This mini-grant program is supported by participating institutions of the North Central Cooperative Extension Association (NCCEA). It is intended to stimulate leadership and an entrepreneurial spirit in achieving the multistate impacts.

### **2017**

**South Dakota State University** Suzanne Stluka \$5,000

*Bridging the Gap between the Opportunities & Challenges Identified in the North Central Region FCS Analysis Report*

All NC FCS Program Leaders have been involved in planning and participating in the regional meetings that have followed up on priorities and issues identified by the FCS Battelle Report. Those meetings have led to the formation of twelve multi-state teams that have been exploring opportunities for external grants; national recognition of programs through peer-reviewed posters, articles, and presentations; shared evaluation frameworks and data collection across multi-states; and finding synergy amongst states for positions/programs that are somewhat isolated when working in just their home state. This request was to fund a writer to follow up on external grant applications. This effort is currently in process.

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### **2016**

**Purdue University** Mike Shutz, Greg Hadley \$4,800

*NC ANR Academy for the 21st Century Extension Professional*

This project addressed immediate needs of Extension Educators to respond to the downturn in the farm and rural economies by assisting farmers, farm families and rural communities impacted by financial and emotional stress. The North Central Farm Management Committee and the Center for Commercial Agriculture at Purdue University designed and implemented two workshops. The Center for Farm Financial Management (U of MN) also delivered a half day-workshop on the use of FINPACK for farm financial analysis. The outcomes support the Financial and Marketing Outcomes of the Livestock Systems and especially the Cropping Systems Logic Models of NCCEA.

**Purdue University** Julie Huetteman \$8,000

*Building Capacity and Quality in Program Development*

This project supported work across Extension's four core program areas to establish a common language, resources, and training activities focused on program development, evaluation and impact reporting (PD&E), in order to build the capacity of Extension personnel to develop programs and evaluate impact.

**South Dakota State University** Suzanne Stluka \$8,000

*The Analysis of the Value of Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Extension in the North Central Region.*

NCR FCS Program Leaders, with support from NCR Extension Directors, brought together a dynamic group of state extension faculty and staff together in April 2016 and November 2016 in Chicago, IL to further work on the issues and opportunities outlined in the report. All the North Central Region FCS Program Leaders were involved in planning and participating in the two regional meetings held in Chicago. Those meetings were attended by approximately 50 individuals in April 2016, and almost 100 in November 2016. This follow up analysis and multistate planning has led to a total of eight multi-state teams being established, with an additional four teams added as of November 2016. Some of the significant items highlighted in the progress reports from the teams include: secured additional external grant dollars to fund the work; national recognition of programs through peer-reviewed posters, articles, and presentations; shared evaluation frameworks and data collection across multi-states; and finding synergy amongst states for positions/programs that are somewhat isolated when working in just their home state.

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**2015**

**Ohio State** Brian Raison \$6,000

*Food System Certification*

North Central Regional members of the eXtension Community, Local & Regional Food Systems Community of Practice (CLRFS CoP) and the North American Food Systems Network (NAFSN) convened a face-to-face planning meeting followed by several non-face-to-face meetings in 2015 to establish a *food systems professional development certification program*.

**Nebraska** Kathleen Lodl \$5,000

Collaboration to Engage First Generation 4H Youth and Families - This project supported a work conference to share and discuss specific program and organizational strategies to engage 1st generation 4-H youth and families. Three to four person teams from each state attended an initial visioning retreat to identify strategies and one or two potential pilot initiatives.

**North Dakota** Andrew Thostenson \$5,000

Curriculum Development for Laundering Pesticide Contaminated Clothing

Pesticide users need to know how to properly handle and wash pesticide contaminate clothing to minimize exposure to themselves and others in the household. This project created a new regional extension fact sheet, developed train-the-trainer tools, and conducted multi-state webinars to educate extension educators on how to use these materials.

**North Dakota** David Ripplinger \$5,000

Farm Technology Management Extension Education Program

The purpose of the “Farm Technology Management Program” is to conduct planning to develop and deliver a multi-state Extension program that helps farmers answer the questions of “What role will new technology have on farm financial viability?” and “Is precision agriculture a worthwhile investment?” for their farm business.

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**2014**

**Kansas** Barbara Stone \$8,000

Fundamentals of Volunteer Management – NCR volunteer specialists proposed the development of an online course aimed at building staff and organizational capacity around volunteer management and volunteer development. The project developed a five-module course to be utilized across the 12 state region with each state contributing additional funds to support the effort.

**Nebraska** Rick Koelsch \$8,000

NC ANR Academy for 21st Century Extension Professionals - This project sought to prepare 21st century extension field faculty/staff to be actively engaged in delivering educational programming and technical assistance to commercial farmers and agribusiness. The ANR Academy aimed to produce a high functioning cohort of field educators with knowledge of critical issues facing agriculture in the NCR, connections to those creating research based solutions, and program delivery skills grounded in innovative methods and producing behavior change

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**2013**

**Ohio State** Dan Remley \$7,700

Multistate Extension Diabetes Initiative – This project funded a multistate face-to-face meeting to grow the membership of the North Central Dining with Diabetes Team, to clarify interests and to standardize a national or multi-state Dining with Diabetes evaluation. The meeting also sought to establish successful team dynamics related to evaluation, online course development and identifying other issues of interest.

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**2012**

**Wisconsin** Sharon Lezberg \$8,000

NCR Educators Needs Assessment in Community Food Systems -

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**2011**

**Kansas** Paula Peters \$4,000

Childhood Obesity - This project supported state and county faculty in eight states (Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, North Dakota, Ohio, Purdue, South Dakota and Wisconsin) to develop the framework for a multi-state AFRI proposal in response to an AFRI RFP for Integrated Research, Education and Extension to prevent Childhood Obesity.

**South Dakota** Joan Hegerfeld-Baker \$3,000

Food Security – This project supported state and county faculty in seven states (Iowa, Kansas, North Dakota, Ohio, Purdue, South Dakota and Wisconsin) to develop the framework for a multi-state AFRI proposal in response to an AFRI RFP for the Food Security Challenge area.

**Illinois** Denise Legvold \$4,000

Economic Value Banner Outcomes Workforce Preparedness– Measured the economic value of the 4H Youth Development program in terms of 4H members that plan to continue their education following graduation from high school. State specific data was collected in all NCR 4H Youth Development programs.

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**2010**

**Indiana** Renee McKee \$2,000

4H Study of Positive Youth Development – This project pilot tested a student questionnaire in selected NCR states to measure Positive Youth Development using the measures of the 5 C's (Competence, Connection, Confidence, Caring and Character). The effort included adapting the instrument to an on-line version to ease administration and data entry.

**Indiana** Linda Propkopy \$4,000

Understanding How Midwestern Agriculture Will Adapt to Climate Change – This project sought to build a team of social scientists across the NCR to work together over a number of years to address climate change issues as they relate to agriculture. A second product was the development of a NIFA proposal

**Wisconsin**                      Rebecca Power                      \$4,000

Development of NCR Logic Models for Water – This project developed two water logic models and associated impact indicators for the NCR. The logic models addressed “Bioenergy and Water Resources” and “Nutrients, Manure and Water resources.”

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**2009**

**Wisconsin**                      Tom Blewett                      \$4,000

NCR Sustainable Communities Task Force – This project convened a multidisciplinary, sustainable communities regional taskforce to develop an inventory of existing resources and programs in the region. Further efforts focused on developing access to existing resources and materials or regional adaptation of those materials in cooperation with NCRCRD.

**Minnesota**                      Karen Shirer                      \$4,000

Extension Family Strengthening Program – This project convened a group of Family Science specialist in the NCR with the purpose of expanding the value, understanding and use of family focused prevention programs in states. Additionally efforts were made in developing a strategy for reporting outcomes of these programs across states.

**Michigan**                      Dennis Pennington                      \$4,000

Multistate Programming in Sustainable Biomass – The purpose of this project was to develop and begin to utilize a network of Extension educators and specialists in the NCR to develop educational programs and resources based upon the outcomes and impacts listed in the “Agricultural Biomass for Energy Production” logic model.