

Teaching Team



2019 North Central Region Administrative Management Boot Camp

Tala Awada [Tel. (402) 472-7088 / tawada2@unl.edu] is an Associate Dean/Director in the Agricultural Research Division (ARD) at the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and a Professor of Plant Ecophysiology in the School of Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). She also co-leads the Nebraska Long-term Agroecosystem Research (LTAR) network sites in NE (ARS/USDA and UNL partnership). As an Associate Dean/Director, she contributes to the development and implementation of ARD's strategic research mission. She provides mentoring and support to individual faculty and facilitates/assists with building and supporting of high-performance transdisciplinary teams. She works with academic unit/center leaders to establish and meet metrics/goals for delivering high-quality, integrated, disciplinary and transdisciplinary research and graduate education with strong local impacts and global reach. She contributes to promoting an inclusive culture and engage diverse audiences, especially those that are traditionally underrepresented and/or underserved. She also participates in the promotion and engagement of faculty and students in the global research opportunities that are aligned with ARD's priorities. She continues to conduct research and publishes in the areas of plant ecophysiology, crop abiotic stresses, plant phenomics, and forest and grassland ecology. Tala received her PhD in Plant Sciences from the University of Saskatchewan, Canada; MS in Environmental and Renewable Resources from the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania, Greece; and BS in Agriculture from the Lebanese University, Lebanon.

Martin A. (Marty) Draper [Tel. (785) 532-6147 / maddr@ksu.edu] is the Interim Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Programs, and Interim Director of Research for Kansas State Research and Extension. He came to Kansas State in 2016 as Department Head in the Plant Pathology Department. Prior to moving to Kansas, Dr. Draper spent ten years as National Program Leader for Plant Pathology and Integrated Pest Management at the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) of USDA. In addition to working with competitive programs, he also co-lead an effort to improve capacity program administration. He also served as a liaison to other agencies and served a detail with the Foreign Ag Service in Serbia to address restructuring of their Extension Service. In his earlier career he was the Extension Plant Pathologist at South Dakota State University, focusing on wheat and soybeans, but with responsibilities for all growing plants. He also taught a horticultural diseases class and served on a weekly PBS television panel. His preparation for SDSU was one state north where he was the Director of the North Dakota State University Plant-Pest Diagnostic Lab, a multidisciplinary service lab for plant problems and the NDSU Seed Health Testing Lab. The two labs were recreated in tandem to provide an economically viable model to achieve two end goals with public service. He was also taught the stand-alone Introductory Plant Pathology Laboratory course in the Plant Pathology Department. He came to the diagnostic labs from the ND State Seed Department where he was the plant pathologist and manager of the pathogen-free/clean potato seed stocks program. An Iowa native, he earned a BS in Plant Pathology and Pest Management at Iowa State University. He arrived in Fargo for graduate school and completed his MS before joining State Seed. While there he began work on a PhD which was continued and completed while he managed the diagnostic lab.

Christina Hamilton [Tel. (608) 262-2349 / christina.hamilton@wisc.edu] is the assistant director for the North Central Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NCRA). She has enjoyed serving in this role for approximately 12 years, managing the USDA multistate ag research portfolio for the NC region, serving as lead system administrator for NIMSS, as well as facilitating the activities of the member Experiment Station directors and other stakeholders. Christina also maintains NCCEA.org, the NCR Boot Camp webpages, and administers the Qualtrics surveys for the team.

Chuck Hibberd [Tel. (402) 472-2966 / hibberd@unl.edu] has served as Dean and Director of Nebraska Extension since October 2012. Prior to this appointment, he was Associate Dean and Director of Extension at Purdue University. He also served for 13 years as the Director of the Panhandle Research & Extension Center in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. Hibberd has been in service to Cooperative Extension nationally as a 9-year member of ECOP (Extension Committee on Policy), the national governing board of the Cooperative Extension Section representing 76 land-grant based Extension programs across the U.S. In October 2018 he completed a term as ECOP Chair.

Jeff Jacobsen [Tel. (517) 388-3794 / jjacobsn@msu.edu] is the Executive Director for the North Central Regional Association (NCRA) of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors. In this role he represents the Agricultural Research Deans/Directors across the 12-state region (IA, IL, IN, KS, MI, MN, MO, ND, NE, OH, SD, WI). As Executive Director his role is to foster cooperation, communication, collaboration and innovation among those states, as well as nationally with institutions in other regions. He also works to assist in partnerships with various state, regional and federal agencies, and with public and private sector stakeholders. Jacobsen has served as NCRA Executive Director since 2014. Prior to that he was Dean and Director of the College of Agriculture and the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station at Montana State University (2003-2013). He also served as Department Head, Land Resources and Environmental Sciences at Montana State University (1994-2004). Jacobsen's additional academic experience includes: teaching in nutrient cycling, soil science, Capstone Experience, graduate seminar; research and Extension education in soil science, nutrient management, water quality; and international activities in China, Egypt, Japan, Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia. He received his PhD in Soil Science from Oklahoma State University, MS in Agronomy from Colorado State University and BS in Soil Science from California Polytechnic State University.

Jeff King [Tel. (614) 247-5034 / king.20@osu.edu] leads the Emotional Intelligence assessment process and feedback session for Boot Camp participants. King is an Associate Professor and Co-Director of The Ohio State University Leadership Center. The OSU Leadership Center was created in 1990 on the Columbus campus and is a part of the Departments of Agricultural Communication, Education, and Leadership and OSU Extension. Its mission is to provide research-based resources and programs that strengthen leadership capacities. His areas of expertise include: leadership development, emotional intelligence and leadership, organization development for Extension education. King has a PhD in Extension Education and a BS in Agricultural Education, both from The Ohio State University.

George Smith [Tel. (517) 355-0123 / smithge7@msu.edu] is Associate Director of MSU AgBio Research and Associate Dean for Research for the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. In his role as Associate Director, George Smith has leadership responsibilities for the animal and veterinary science research portfolio, serves as a liaison to the animal agriculture stakeholder groups, provides oversight of the Office of Research Support, and contributes to the overall leadership and operation of the organization. As Associate Dean for Research, he also provides strategic vision, leadership and administrative oversight for the CANR research portfolio. Smith obtained his doctoral and master's degrees in Animal Science from the University of Missouri-Columbia in the area of reproductive physiology, and his BS in animal science from the University of Idaho. As a Professor in the Department of Animal Science, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) or the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have continuously funded his research since 1998. To date, Smith has been the lead or co-lead on grants totaling over \$9 million and published 111 peer-reviewed research articles and 18 invited reviews, and his research group has filed two patents. He has also served on grant review panels for USDA, NIH and National Science Foundation competitive grant programs and on the editorial boards of several prominent reproductive biology and endocrinology journals.

Robin Shepard [Tel. (608) 890-2688 / robin.shepard@wisc.edu] is the Executive Director for the North Central Cooperative Extension Association (NCCEA). In this capacity Shepard works directly with Cooperative Extension Deans and Directors to support multi-state programming. His work also involves representing member universities at the regional and federal levels with partners and policy makers. Shepard has served in a number of administrative positions with the University of Wisconsin including interim Provost and Vice Chancellor of UW-Extension (2008) and Assistant Dean/Director and State Program Leader for Community, Natural Resource and Economic Development (CNRED / 2001-2008). Shepard also holds the position of Associate Professor in the UW-Madison Department of Life Sciences Communication, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences where he has contributed to numerous academic publications focused on the human and social science dimensions of natural resource management. His other areas of contribution have involved program evaluation and impact assessment of Extension programs. He has a PhD in Land Resource Management from the University of Wisconsin, an MS in Mass Communications from Iowa State University, and a BS in Botany from Iowa State University.

Marshall Stewart [Tel. (573) 882-7477 / stewartmars@missouri.edu] has served as vice chancellor for extension and engagement at the University of Missouri since August 2016, overseeing an \$82 million budget with 650 faculty and staff. He provides leadership for MU Extension and continuing education programs, as well as university-wide engagement. Through its campus faculty and statewide network of county offices and specialists, extension delivers almost \$1 billion in economic impact to Missouri's economy. Dr. Stewart also is the chief engagement officer for the University of Missouri System, where he leads statewide outreach efforts and engagement strategies with leaders at all four System campuses and with key System constituent groups — such as the Missouri 100, Friends of the President, Intercampus Alumni Council and the MU State Extension Council. In these dual roles, Dr. Stewart is committed to inclusive, transparent, participation-driven leadership to help MU and the UM System build vibrant, relevant programs that best serve the diverse needs of the people and communities across Missouri. Prior to his tenure at Mizzou, Dr. Stewart was at North Carolina State University (NCSU) where he served as director of college leadership and strategy in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. In this role, he also served as the director of the APLU Food Systems Leadership Institute, providing leadership education for food and agriculture systems leaders in higher education and industry. During his 20-plus years at NCSU, he also served as associate director of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service and department head and program leader of the State 4-H and the Family and Consumer Sciences Program at NCSU. He was also state agricultural education director and state FFA advisor. Dr. Stewart holds a BS in agricultural education, a MS in agricultural education and a Doctor of Education degree in agricultural and extension education from NCSU. He is an accomplished author, workshop presenter and speaker.

Quentin R. Tyler [Tel. (517) 884-7006 / tylerque@msu.edu] currently serves as the Associate Dean and Director for the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) at Michigan State University (MSU). As Associate Dean and Director for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ADDEI), Dr. Tyler provides leadership for infusing diversity, equity and inclusion principles through all areas of the CANR. Dr. Tyler's focus is to create a more multi-culturally centered environment for faculty, staff and students within CANR, AgBioResearch, and the MSU Extension; and network with partners across MSU. Prior to MSU, Dr. Tyler spent over thirteen years in the area of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion serving previously in the role of Assistant Dean and Director for Diversity at the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture. He holds three degrees from the University of Kentucky. He received a BS in Agricultural Economics, a MS in Agricultural Economics, and PhD in Sociology, with an emphasis on Social Inequalities. Additionally, he has received a Professional Certificate in Diversity and Inclusion from Cornell's School of Industrial and Labor Relations. Additionally, Dr. Tyler was the 2015-2016 National Professional President of MANRRS (Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences) and currently serves as the National MANRRS Advisory Board Chair. Over the last decade, he has been recognized for his work with students and in diversity and inclusion as the National MANRRS Advisor of the Year, recognized as a Tri State Diversity Champion, University of Kentucky Inclusive Excellence Awardee and as a Game Changer by Workforce Magazine in the area of workforce management