



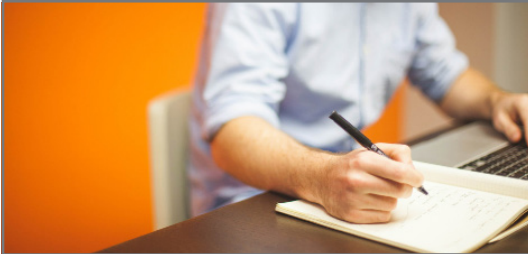
Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
WASHINGTON COUNTY

JULY 2023 REPORT

We teach, learn, lead and serve, connecting people with the University of Wisconsin, and engaging with them in transforming lives and communities. Serving Washington County since 1918, Extension educators take pride in delivering programs which apply the research, knowledge, and resources of the University of Wisconsin to meet the issues and needs of Washington County.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Community Development provides educational programming to assist leaders, communities, and organizations realize their full potential. We work with communities to build the vitality that enhances their quality of life and enriches the lives of their residents. In short, the Community Development Institute plants and cultivates the seeds for thriving communities and organizations.

Paul Roback, Community Development Educator

The executive director of Leadership Germantown, a local nonprofit, contacted Paul to provide a follow-up Real Colors training for class participants. Real Colors is an interactive workshop that teaches skills to understand human behavior and improve communication with others. Paul, along with Extension Human Development and Relationships Educator Carol Bralich, have provided ongoing Real Colors workshops for organizations since 2015.

In response, Paul and Carol taught and facilitated a two-hour Real Colors Refresher workshop for 14 participants. During the workshop, participants brainstormed and discussed key lessons they could recall from their first Real Colors workshop. Then participants paired off with opposite color partners to clarify misperceptions they may have about that color. Lastly, participants worked in primary color teams to brainstorm how their color responds to change, and then they shared with all participants during a large-group discussion.

Through evaluation (N=14), 92% of participants increased their understanding of others strengths, 92% clarified misperceptions they had about another color, 100% increased their understanding of how to communicate change to other colors, and 100% were able to recognize the strengths that others bring to the team when implementing change. Overall, participants evaluated Carol and Paul's facilitation of the session a 4.7 on a 5-point Likert Scale (1=poor and 5=excellent). Commenting on how they will use what they learned from the workshop, one participant stated "I will continue to consider others perspective as I implement projects and change." Another commented "I will consider different ways to communicate changes with my team."



HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND RELATIONSHIPS



*The Extension Institute of **Human Development & Relationships** provides the tools Wisconsinites need to thrive as well-rounded, capable individuals and families. We support families in caring for each other in ways that promote growth and understanding. Our programs promote aging-friendly communities, coach effective parents and help families put technology, mindfulness and financial awareness to use.*

Carol Bralich, Human Development & Relationship Educator

Re-establishing Washington County Child Care Director Network

Carol and Community Development Educator Paul Roback were approached by the CEO of the Kettle Moraine YMCA and the Washington County Economic Support Supervisor to assist in creating an opportunity to discuss observed challenges in the local childcare industry. As a result, a summit for childcare directors in Washington County was convened and participants identified a long-term goal to improve the retention of teachers and staff. Retention of staff impacts the availability of spaces for young children, which affects parents' ability to work outside of the home. Summit participants, including childcare directors and administrators, clearly indicated a need for collegial support and an organized space to network.

In response, Carol collaborated with the KMYMCA childcare director and created a needs assessment survey that was distributed to all Washington County childcare centers in June. From the 17 responses, childcare directors indicated a need to support each other in solving challenging problems and to create opportunities to learn from each other. Topics respondents felt would be most beneficial to discuss include licensing rules, continuing education, community resources for families, and staffing issues. The survey also asked logistical questions to determine the best time and method to meet. The first childcare director meeting will be held August 17th in West Bend. The agenda includes time to share ideas and programs, as well as establishing a framework for future meetings.

- An online self-study program, where participants learned about spending plans, credit, and paying bills on time. This effort is designed to improve the success of participants in maintaining timely payments so they have transportation to access employment and improve their credit score.



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



Positive Youth Development prepares the youth of today to become the effective, empathetic adults of tomorrow. Our research-based youth enrichment programs like teens in governance build youth and adult capacity and partnerships that help both sides grow. 4-H clubs, camps and after-school programs give young people the hands-on experiences they need to develop an understanding of themselves and the world.

Positive Youth Development

Ron Jakubisin, 4-H Program Educator

- Providing supervision to Summer 4-H Intern in designing and delivering sessions to several youth-serving agencies such as Jackson's Boys & Girls Club, Kewaskum, Slinger and Hartford Libraries, Camp Super Hero and West Bend Farmers Market (education table). These sessions are educational and interactive and promote joining 4-H to those youth unfamiliar with 4-H.
- 4-H Summer Camp debriefing meeting in which teen counselors and adult volunteers received peer review feedback about their leadership skills as camp counselors, as well as evaluating scheduled activities to improve camp implementation for 2024.
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"I can't thank you enough for your amazing partnership and engagement in Camp Super Hero this year! We were impressed with you and your summer intern as you spoke about 4-H. Both of you were articulate, relatable and engaging in conducting activities that tied into community engagement."
- Volunteer Center of Washington County day camp coordinator.

Community Youth Development

Kelly Dione, Community Youth Development Educator

- A series of meetings with UW-Madison - Extension Colleagues as well as observing programming to better understand the role of the CYD educator and develop strategies for potential collaborations within Extension.
- Development of a community needs assessment tool where a collection of data from one-on-one meetings with local youth serving organizations and youth focus groups will be conducted, data organized, and analyzed. This effort is designed as the foundation of the programming needs of the communities. The needs assessment will be used to develop programming with youth organizations to build capacity, expand access, and connect youth and adults to work collaboratively on community projects.



AGRICULTURE



If it happens on a farm or in a field, the Extension Institute of Agriculture works with you to achieve better results. Our innovative dairy management programs range from genetics to farm and business management. Extension researchers work hand-in-hand with row crop, forage and fresh produce growers to provide best practices for every aspect of the growing phase. We also advise communities on using sustainable practices to create inviting spaces free from invasive species.

Dairy

Tina Kohlman, Regional Dairy Educator

Extension Washington County has had a long, collaborative history first with the Washington-Ozaukee County Dairy Herd Improvement Association (DHIA) and today as Eastern Wisconsin Dairy Herd Improvement Cooperative (DHIC). In this partnership, Regional Dairy Extension Educator Tina Kohlman serves as an advisor to the cooperative's board which oversees an on-farm milk testing program for dairy farmers to know how well their cows are milking and to utilize the data to make management decisions to improve business viability and food safety while maintaining animal welfare. Not only is the data used by the farm to make management decisions, but also by agribusiness professionals and Extension to help support farms in areas of improvement.

Eastern Wisconsin DHIC provides a bi-monthly newsletter to its 400+ members, including Washington County dairy producer members and agribusiness community. As part of the collaboration, Extension provides the educational content of the newsletter while Eastern Wisconsin DHIC provides printing and postage costs. Content includes not only dairy related resources, but also timely crop updates with the recently published newsletter focusing on drought resources and feed inventories and management as we approach the fall harvest season. A win-win situation, Extension is able to outreach to the dairy community in additional ways with timely research-based information and resources while not increasing operating costs.

Crops

Liz Gartman, Regional Crops Educator

- An interview with WBAY TV in Green Bay where the focus was the effect of drought/dry conditions and how it impacts the crop growth and effect on feed inventories for area crop and livestock producers. The goal is to provide viewers insight into the effects of dry weather on the local farm economy.





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- A series of in person meetings with potential partners in Washington County including Land & Water department staff, Cedar Creek Farmers advisor, USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service partners, and the Washington County Community Development planner. We discussed opportunities related to the role of UW-Madison Extension in Washington County, potential partnerships, ag community needs and programming gaps. The goal of this activity is to generate an informal needs assessment of the regional ag community including Washington County to plan programming that will provide necessary support to the agricultural community.

Tina Kohlman
Regional Dairy Educator

Liz Gartman
Regional Crops Educator

Ron Jakubisin
4-H Program Educator

Kelly Dione
*Community Youth Development
Educator*

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