

What we do & Why it matters

EXTENSION LEADERSHIP

MARGARET LARSON (County Extension Director, Jo Daviess, Stephenson, and Winnebago Counties)

Margaret Larson provides leadership and oversight for all aspects of Extension and 4-H in Jo Daviess, Stephenson and Winnebago counties. She works to empower staff to effectively respond to issues in the communities and neighborhoods and to use Extension's resources, including volunteers, efficiently to maximize impact. The resulting work for the public leads to open access to Extension information, expertise, and assistance.

VICKY BROOS (County Extension Director, Boone, DeKalb and Ogle Counties)

retired January 31, 2018

Vicky Broos provides leadership in cooperation with others to develop, market and implement Extension programs meeting local needs in Boone, DeKalb and Ogle counties. This includes securing and managing the human and financial resources needed to maintain and enhance program opportunities for local citizens.

JAMES E. REAVES (County Extension Director, Lake and McHenry Counties)

James Reaves provides leadership, personnel management and fiscal management, and program delivery methods to Extension in Lake and McHenry counties. He markets and promotes need-based educational programs to diverse audiences to extend the knowledge of the university beyond its walls to enrich the lives of local citizens.

SANDRA I. DAVIS (County Extension Director, DuPage, Kane and Kendall Counties)

Sandra Davis provides leadership and supervision to DuPage, Kane and Kendall Unit staff, coordinates unit programming to meet the needs of local citizens, plans and oversees fiscal management, and supplies guidance to the unit extension councils and foundations. She directs the unit team's efforts to provide a variety of research-based information to help our neighbors improve quality of life, develop skills and solve problems. She challenges and supports educators to develop and expand programs to meet emerging and changing needs. She works closely with staff, volunteers, citizens and stakeholders to better serve the local communities through U of I Extension.

WILLENE BUFFETT (County Extension Director, Cook County)

Willene Buffett provides leadership to a diverse team of 20 academic professionals in the largest urban county in Illinois. Her focus is on building a high-achieving team equipped with the resources that they need to implement and deliver programs to residents of Cook County. The unit has increased equal access to the University of Illinois land-grant institution for underrepresented and underserved populations. Buffett is the conduit between the people, the team, key stakeholders, and funding streams.

BETH LAPLANTE (County Extension Director, Grundy, Kankakee and Will Counties)

Beth LaPlante provides leadership for the program development and delivery of Extension education, as well as the fiscal and personnel management in the Grundy, Kankakee and Will County Unit. She provides guidance, support and direction to staff and volunteers to ensure educational programs are offered to all audiences in the unit.

JOSEPH TOMAN (Regional Director, Region 1)

Joseph Toman provides administrative leadership to Extension staff in 15 counties in northern Illinois, while supporting the Associate Dean and Director of Extension in carrying out the mission and vision of the organization. The focus of Toman and his regional office staff is to assist and support county directors in navigating university policy and procedures in fiscal matters, personnel issues, and facility management at the local level. Additionally, they facilitate the interaction between field staff and campus personnel to enhance outreach and discovery in the communities of Illinois and to address emerging needs in timely fashion, fulfilling Extension's motto of Extending Knowledge, Changing Lives.

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JANICE MCCOY (County Extension Director, Carroll, Lee and Whiteside Counties)

Janice McCoy leads unit staff in developing research-based, high-impact programs for local communities in Carroll, Lee and Whiteside counties so that they can extend their knowledge and change their lives. McCoy is also responsible for maintaining financial resources to support local Extension programming.

JENNY GARNER (County Extension Director, Henry, Mercer, Rock Island and Stark Counties)

Jenny Garner leads the Extension unit that serves the people of Henry, Mercer, Rock Island and Stark counties. She serves as steward of the public trust through responsible planning and management of resources, staff supervision, and oversight of educational programs in the unit. She uses extension principles to facilitate community-based collaborations and non-profit organizational planning to address issues, solve problems, and work toward effective change.

JILL GUYNN (County Extension Director, Bureau, LaSalle, Marshall and Putnam Counties)

Jill Guynn directs the overall Extension outreach programs in Bureau, La Salle, Marshall and Putnam counties, connecting local people to the University of Illinois. She provides leadership to Extension staff and trained volunteers who engage with local youth and adults for delivery of unbiased, research-based educational programming and services for all local people. Jill works with local leaders and stakeholders to assess needs and to secure funding support for provision of Extension education programs that address evolving situations across Bureau, LaSalle, Marshall and Putnam Counties. As a result, individual and community-wide issues, concerns and needs are met through improved situations and environments. These positive outcomes benefit local citizens and community networks.

LISA FULKERSON (County Extension Director, Henderson, Knox, McDonough and Warren Counties)

Lisa Fulkerson is the county Extension director for Henderson, Knox, McDonough and Warren counties. In addition to supervising staff, overseeing the budget and daily tasks necessary to run the unit, she is personally involved in facilitating poverty simulations and disaster education work.

EARL ALLEN (County Extension Director, Fulton, Mason, Peoria and Tazewell Counties)

Earl Allen leads a group of 40 staff and 500 volunteers who are working to make the people and communities of Fulton, Mason, Peoria and Tazewell Counties better through education, facilitation and collaboration. The work accomplished by Allen's group results in research-based information, technologies and best practices being transferred from the university arena into public and private arenas, benefiting the local people and their communities.

BOBBIE LEWIS-SIBLEY (County Extension Director, Livingston, McLean and Woodford Counties)

Bobbie Lewis-Sibley provides leadership to Extension programs in Livingston, McLean and Woodford counties. She works to develop staff and allocate the resources they need to be creative and to challenge themselves, so that programming is innovative and meets the needs of our communities. Her ultimate goal is to create a team who are excited about their programming and youth and volunteers who share that excitement.

EARL BRICKER (County Extension Director, Adams, Brown, Hancock, Pike and Schuyler Counties)

Earl Bricker helps manage the stability of Extension in Adams, Brown, Hancock, Pike and Schuyler counties through fiscal oversight and supporting staff members in their work, coaching as needed. He provides a link between the five counties, providing information about Extension's work both internally to staff and volunteers and externally to other stakeholders. Earl tracks program outcomes to ensure that Extension staff are meeting the needs of local communities.

AARON N. DUFELMEIER (County Extension Director, Calhoun, Cass, Greene, Morgan and Scott Counties)

Aaron Dufelmeier provides leadership, mentorship, financial management, and personnel supervision to Extension staff and volunteers in Calhoun, Cass, Greene, Morgan, and Scott counties. He inspires and motivates Extension staff to create and deliver meaningful, value added, and research-based educational programming to youth and adults. Aaron is improving the lives of his community's residents by serving as the link between the people and the research at the University of Illinois.

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TERRI MILLER (County Extension Director, Logan, Menard and Sangamon Counties)

Terri Miller provides leadership to Extension in Logan, Menard & Sangamon counties, where she manages financial and personnel resources, as well as program development and delivery. She is the local representative of U of I Extension and is responsible for marketing and promoting its educational programs. She establishes relationships with diverse audiences and partners with individuals to improve the lives of people and the communities of Logan, Menard & Sangamon counties.

AMANDA COLE (County Extension Director, Christian, Jersey, Macoupin and Montgomery Counties)

Amanda Cole works to assess needs within the communities of Christian, Jersey, Macoupin and Montgomery counties. She then works to connect individuals, families, businesses, organizations and communities to unbiased research through Extension programs, with the goal of empowering those served to make better-informed decisions. Her interests includes educating communities on issues facing those living in poverty, and on the resources available through Extension.

RYAN HOBSON (Regional Director, Region 2)

Ryan Hobson provides leadership and oversight to the region in the areas of personnel, budgets, educational programming and facility management to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the units and staff delivering cutting edge, high quality, research based educational programming.

CARL BAKER (County Extension Director, Clay, Effingham, Fayette, and Jasper Counties)

Carl Baker directs Extension programs in Clay, Effingham, Fayette and Jasper counties. Carl advances Extension as a trusted resource in imparting valid, research-based information that allows stakeholders and communities to make sound, informed decisions. Carl works to provide a sense of connectivity between the community and the University of Illinois campus.

CONNIE BECK (County Extension Director, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Pope, Saline, and White Counties)

Connie Beck directs Extension programs in Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Pope, Saline and White counties. Connie helps Extension provide education to often underserved audiences to assist people in making more informed decisions.

GINGER BOAS (County Extension Director, Champaign, Ford, Iroquois, and Vermillion Counties)

Ginger Boas directs Extension programs in Champaign, Ford, Iroquois and Vermillion counties. She links the local community with researchers and educators in order to solve pertinent community issues. Ginger ensures Extension has resources available and an infrastructure in place to allow the translation of research into usable information. By taking usable knowledge and disseminating through organized networks, Extension can make a positive difference in the lives of families and businesses where they live, work and play.

JILL GEBKE (County Extension Director, Bond, Clinton, Jefferson, Marion, and Washington Counties)

Jill Gebke leads Extension programming in Bond, Clinton, Jefferson, Marion, and Washington Counties. Jill's team connects and delivers the University of Illinois expertise and resources to their community for youth development, agriculture and natural resources, nutrition and wellness education, and financial information. Our team makes an impact by leading programs which bring positive change in our community.

DOUG HARLAN (County Extension Director, DeWitt, Macon, and Piatt Counties)

Doug Harlan leads Extension programs in Macon, DeWitt and Piatt counties. Doug provides effective management to a staff of professionals who educate stakeholders on topics ranging from horticulture to nutrition, changing lives in a positive manner.

LYNN HEINS (County Extension Director, Franklin, Jackson, Perry, Randolph and Williamson Counties)

Lynn Heins leads Extension programming in Franklin, Jackson, Perry, Randolph and Williamson counties. Lynn helps disseminate the resources of the University of Illinois to her community, assisting residents like the farmer who learned to produce and market fall crops through Extension, increasing his farm income by 30 percent.

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PAM JACOBS (County Extension Director, Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair Counties)

As the county extension director Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair counties, Pam Jacobs supports Extension staff and volunteers to deliver timely, relevant and reliable education to local people. Pam provides leadership and positive role modeling to “make the best better” for people through Illinois Extension.

JODY JOHNSON (County Extension Director, Alexander, Johnson, Massac, Pulaski and Union Counties)

As county extension director, Jody Johnson manages Extension staff in Alexander, Johnson, Massac, Pulaski and Union counties to fulfill the missions of Extension. Extension provides valid, research-based information from reliable and neutral sources.

JULIE MUMBOWER (Regional Director, Region 3)

Julie Mumbower provides oversight and leadership to the Region 3 field staff in the areas of budget, personnel, programming and facilities to ensure high-functioning units. As a result, citizens receive quality research-based programs that enhance and improve their quality of life.

MORGAN NEWELL (County Extension Director, Edwards, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash and Wayne Counties)

As county extension director for Edwards, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash and Wayne counties, Morgan Newell is focused on ensuring the unit offers relevant, informal education and learning activities to communities. Morgan works to obtain resources, inform the public of opportunities available to them, and evaluate the ongoing needs and impact of Extension programs, allowing staff to take knowledge gained through research and education, and bring it directly to communities to create positive changes.

KATHY REISER (County Extension Director, Coles, Cumberland, Douglas, Moultrie, and Shelby Counties)

As county extension director for Coles, Cumberland, Douglas, Moultrie, and Shelby counties, Kathy Reiser manages the finances, facilities and other resources that enable her colleagues to offer educational programs that help make life better, healthier, safer and more prosperous for the people and communities they serve.

STACY WOODYARD (County Extension Director, Clark, Crawford and Edgar Counties)

As the county extension director for Clark, Crawford and Edgar counties, Stacy Woodyard provides staff with resources and training to help them develop and deliver educational programs that make a difference in the lives of the people in our communities.

TONY FRANKLIN (Associate Director and Affirmative Action Officer)

Tony Franklin provides leadership for Extension field operations and serves as a core member of the Extension administrative team. He is responsible for developing and implementing policies and procedures for Extension. He leads the civil rights training and compliance review process to ensure nondiscrimination in employment and programs.

HARRY CLORE (Associate Director of Budget and Finance)

Harry Clore oversees all business and financial activities of Extension. He, along with the business office staff, makes sure that Extension is a good steward of its resources while supporting those in the field who deliver Extension programs.

BETH WELBES (Director of Program Planning and Assessment)

Beth Welbes provides leadership to develop data collection and reporting systems that promote sound program planning and evaluation across Extension. She works collaboratively with Extension leaders and staff responsible for serving communities to tell the story of how Extension impacts lives of people throughout Illinois.

SUZANNE BISSONNETTE (Program Leader and Assistant Dean, Agriculture and Natural Resources)

Suzanne Bissonnette provides leadership for the Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) program and directs the University of Illinois Plant Clinic. She builds partnerships between researchers, extension educators, and external stakeholders and ensures delivery of programs to Illinois stakeholders. These programs support the economic viability of our citizens and the environmental sustainability of our natural and managed landscapes and productive lands in Illinois.

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ANNE H. SILVIS (Program Leader and Assistant Dean, Community and Economic Development)

Anne works with Extension educators and community leaders from across the state to help them build stronger decision systems, improve their leadership abilities, and facilitate community participation in the decisions and planning that improve the vitality and quality of life in rural and urban areas. Extension helps community members address critical issues through programs such as facilitation, conducting surveys, managing projects, good governance, and developing community support for business success, including entrepreneurship.

AMANDA TAYLOR (Assistant Director of Field Operations)

Amanda provides training and development opportunities to the nearly 800 Extension field staff located throughout the State of Illinois. She serves as a resource for policy and procedures, risk management, and volunteerism to serve our field staff as they continue to extend knowledge and change lives for those who participate in University of Illinois Extension programs.

JAMES HAZZARD (Manager Extension Technology Services)

James Hazzard leads the Extension IT and web development teams to provide and support the best hardware, software, websites, and network for our Extension educators and field staff. He works hard to ensure a modern, secure computing environment and communications infrastructure so that the Extension staff can reach an audience of thousands (or tens of thousands) across the state of Illinois with the push of a button.

DEBORAH SEILER (Communications Coordinator)

Deborah Seiler leads strategic communications efforts to advance the visibility, accessibility, and broader impact of Extension programs for Illinois residents. Her areas of expertise include science communications and social marketing. Deborah serves as the chief communications officer for Extension and is a member of the administrative team.

LISA BOUILLION DIAZ (Program Leader and Assistant Dean, 4-H Youth Development)

Lisa Bouillion Diaz leads the University of Illinois Extension 4-H program that serves nearly 200,000 youth across the state. She provides the vision and support for a statewide network of 4-H youth professionals who deliver youth development programs addressing issues of college and career readiness, science and technology innovation, health, food access, and environmental stewardship. She also creates campus-community and public-private partnerships that translate into these cutting edge learning opportunities for youth ages 5-18, preparing them for future careers and community life.

SHELLY NICKOLS-RICHARDSON (Interim Associate Dean and Director of Extension)

Shelly Nickols-Richardson is Associate Dean and Director of University of Illinois Extension and a professor in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition. Her research helps individuals and families manage body weight and prevent obesity, metabolic syndrome, and osteoporosis through a variety of dietary, physical activity, and nutrition education approaches. She promotes dietary guidelines through community-based interventions and explores consumer behaviors around vegetable choice, preparation, and consumption.

JENNIFER MCCAFFREY (Program Leader and Assistant Dean, Family and Consumer Sciences)

McCaffrey provides statewide leadership for Extension programs in nutrition, family relationships, and personal finance. Through providing opportunity for collaborations both on and off campus, McCaffrey facilitates the research to translation mission of the land grant university. Through her work, the residents of Illinois have access to information that helps improve their daily lives.