A Message from the Chancellor

The University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign is an economic engine and a driver of innovation, deeply rooted in the Illinois prairie and engaged statewide, from Cook County to Cairo. Illinois Extension brings the University to your doorstep. Extension educators live and work alongside you in every county, allowing the university to support local leaders, businesses, farmers, and residents to address grand challenges and everyday problems with practical, research-based solutions. As a youth, my own 4-H experience inspired a rewarding career in agricultural research and higher education. Today, it’s an honor to lead this great public university and deepen its commitment to serve the people of Illinois.

Robert J. Jones
Chancellor, University of Illinois

A Message from the County Director

College of Agricultural, Consumer & Environmental Sciences (ACES) Dean Kimberly Kidwell called 2019, the “Year of Extension.” It was a year that brought many exciting changes, both at the state level and locally within our five-county area.

Dr. Nickols-Richardson was named associate dean and director of Extension after serving as interim in that role. Having previously served as a professor and head of the Department of Food Science & Human Nutrition in the College of ACES, she has a passion for Extension, and we are excited to have her lead our organization. University of Illinois Extension serving Adams, Brown, Hancock, Pike, and Schuyler Counties saw change in 2019, as well, most notably with our staff. Three long-time office support staff retired and, as a result, new faces now greet those who visit our offices in Adams, Hancock, Pike, and Schuyler Counties. We were also able to fill an important local foods and small farms educator position. We continue to grow and evolve programming to meet local needs, including our most recent social and emotional development programming in partnership with area high schools. While we change and evolve, we stay grounded in programs such as 4-H, Master Gardeners, Ag in the Classroom, SNAP-Ed, and School Nutrition.

We are thankful to our donors and stakeholders for the important role they play by investing in our mission. We are grateful to the countless volunteers working beside us to improve the lives of our friends and neighbors. We are honored to serve our communities and believe in the impact we make. We live Extension’s mission and work to provide educational programs that impact residents throughout their lifetimes. Enclosed you will find highlights from our 2019 programs. We look forward to many more in 2020!

Shelby Crow
County Extension Director
Professional Development for Organizations and Businesses

Real Colors® is a personality and temperament assessment in which participants gain an understanding of the four colors, discover where they fall as an individual on the Real Colors® spectrum, learn to recognize characteristics, and identify personal strengths of each color. 2019 Real Colors® trainings included: Youth Leadership Academies, Western Illinois Leadership Academy, Eagles Care, Panther Partners, Quincy Area Chamber of Commerce Diversity & Inclusion Academy, John Wood Community College, and Liberty Junior High School seventh and eighth grades.

Poverty Simulation: The Community Action Poverty Simulation, CAPS, is a unique tool to educate everyone from policy makers, educators, and local community leaders about the day-to-day realities of life with a shortage of money and an abundance of stress. CAPS gives participants a unique insight into understanding poverty. This program is ideal for teachers and administrators working with students living in poverty. 2019 simulations included: Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing, three Youth Leadership Academies, Western Illinois Leadership Academy, and Quincy Public Schools.

Western Illinois Leadership Academy: This annual program offers participants the opportunity to examine key issues facing our five-county region and to garner a broad understanding of successful initiatives in each of the counties. The program includes unique tours, as well as a networking opportunity with presenters and other participants. A new focus for 2019 was an emphasis of the role and impact of non-profits. Participants heard from area nonprofits and looked at the importance of volunteering and serving on a non-profit board of directors. Western Illinois Leadership Academy meets seven times between August and November.

If your organization is interested in participating in these programs, please contact Sheri Merry at smerry@illinois.edu or Shelby Crow at sschoon@illinois.edu.

Statewide Webinar Reach

- **390** Reached in Community Involvement and Leadership Webinars
- **86** Reached in Food Access Webinars
- **191** Reached in Economic and Financial Well-being Webinars
- **922** Reached in Economic Vitality and Community Resiliency

The mission of University of Illinois Extension Community and Economic Development is to help communities build capacity for creative and informed decision-making to enhance the quality of life.
Foundations Supporting Extension
4-H foundations support educational opportunities for current and potential members of the 4-H community. Efforts and support from these foundations are instrumental in supporting Illinois Extension programming and bringing the resources of the University of Illinois to local communities.

Adams County 4-H Foundation
- Assists with costs for 4-H members to attend state and national events
- Supports 4-H members with enrollment fees or program fees for Youth Leadership Academy
- Supports efforts for social and emotional development clubs, such as Eagles Care, which impacts the entire school district
- Sponsors awards for achievement programs and 4-H fair
- Provides direction and support for other potential programming, or 4-H related efforts, through memorials and other donations
- Partners with Adams County 4-H during National 4-H Week by holding a fundraiser in the Farm and Home Store parking lot
- Provides valuable financial support for overall Extension programming with an annual agreement

Hancock County Extension Foundation
- Assists with costs for 4-H members to attend state and national events
- Supports 4-H members who are struggling with fees for program costs or enrollment for Youth Leadership Academy
- Sponsors awards for achievement programs and 4-H fair
- Provides fundraising and financial support with the live auction during the BBQ at the Hancock County 4-H Fair
- Provides valuable financial support for overall Extension programming with an annual agreement

Pike County 4-H Foundation
- Provides support for each member for enrollment and program fees
- Supports 4-H members who are struggling with fees for program costs or enrollment for Youth Leadership Academy
- Donates financial support for Pike County awards

The winner of the 2019 Hancock County 4-H Foundation Scholarship, Matthew Griener.

OUTSTANDING 4-HER OF THE YEAR: Allyson Sampson, Ellington Hilltoppers 4-H Club, received the Outstanding 4-Her of the Year award. Allyson has grown over the many years she has been in 4-H by taking on many leadership roles and has developed lifelong skills.

To learn more about 4-H Foundations, visit 4hfoundation.illinois.edu
Shooting Sports

More than 3,600 4-H members participate in one of the five 4-H shooting sports disciplines: shotgun, archery, rifle, air pistol, and hunting and outdoor skills. The shooting sports project teaches the responsible and safe handling of firearms. Members must be involved in a club led by a certified volunteer who has completed the National 4-H Shooting Sports training. Each year, the oldest of those members compete in four state contests to determine the state winners and delegates to the National 4-H Shooting Sports Competition held in June.

Kutter Thompson, of the Burton Flyers 4-H Club, competed at the 2019 State 4-H Archery Shoot and placed fifth. Competitors started the day in the wooded area around the Pekin Archers complex, where they shot 3-D targets and flat field targets. In the afternoon, participants aimed at round targets from distances of 50, 40, and 30 yards. By the end of the day, each competitor had made 105 shots.
Environmental Sciences Camp
This spring, we had the privilege of partnering with Gardner Camp, a not-for-profit camp that provides recreational and educational youth programs. Located in Hull, Gardner Camp consists of 330 acres of land in the Mississippi River valley. Environmental Science workshops were coordinated through a collaborative effort between Gardner Camp and 4-H program coordinators from our unit. Each hands-on workshop was designed with hopes of inspiring ideas for 4-H member fair projects. Four workshops took place for 42 youth participants in these project areas:

- **The Natural Resources & Wildlife Workshop** showed the diversity of wildlife and habitats at the camp. Youth went on a hike and learned how to use trail cameras and feeders to see how wildlife behave.
- **The Outdoor Adventure Workshop** featured a “Leave No Trace” Race. Participants learned how to pack a backpack, use a camp stove, choose a location for and put up a tent, as well as knot-tying skills.
- **During the Hunting and Outdoor Skills Workshop**, an Illinois Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Biologist spoke with youth about hunting ethics, licenses, permits and steps to hunting. They toured Gardner Camp to see how wildlife management is applied there and what is planted to attract wildlife.
- **The Entomology Workshop** consisted of catching and collecting insects. With the help of a local entomologist, youth identified what they caught and learned how to mount their insects for a collection.

After School Programming
In our area, 4-H partnered with Blessed Sacrament to have an after school program once a month during the 2019-20 school year. Incorporating 4-H Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) programming into the program, we introduced Makey Makey, an electronic invention kit that allows students to connect everyday objects to different computer programs. Youth can be creative and innovative while using technology. Students have played a piano online using bananas and whack-a-mole with potatoes. They’ve also played Super Mario with ordinary objects, such as coins, paper clips, aluminum foil, etc.

Another program that has been introduced to the students is Ozobot. Ozobots are toy robots that teach kids programming. They can identify lines, colors, and codes on digital and physical surfaces. Students were able to make their own patterns and codes for the Ozobot to follow. We are looking forward to implementing more after school STEM programming.
Illinois 4-H Foundation Hall of Fame

The Illinois 4-H Foundation annually recognizes 4-H volunteers for exemplary service. The 2019 Hall of Fame class includes 80 new inductees who were honored during a celebration on August 13 at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield.

Susan Kissick, Adams County 4-H Foundation President, was one of the inductees. Susan has been a life-long supporter of 4-H. She was a nine-year member of the Eldorado Happy Girls and a leader of the Sew Perfect 4-H Club and Quinsippi 4-H Club for 20 years. She believes in the 4-H mission and is a wonderful motivator to help our youth develop into tomorrow’s leaders! Susan has taken on many leadership roles starting as a club member, transitioning into club leader, and now serving on the Adams County Foundation Board as the first president. Susan also served on the Extension County Council and taught eight years of 4-H In-School Nutrition. She puts in countless volunteer hours, creates wonderful opportunities for youth, and her enthusiasm is contagious! She is greatly appreciated for all she has done for 4-H. Adams County is very fortunate to have a supportive alumni like Susan!

Shellee Fecht has been a volunteer with Hancock County 4-H for over 15 years. Shellee started as a club leader for the Denver Go-Getters and was later a leader for the Hamilton Busy Beavers. Shellee has been a shooting sports instructor since 2009, when the program was first started in Hancock County. She is also the shooting sports coordinator. Shellee is extremely active in the shooting sports program. She and her husband Bob, who is also an instructor, are the back bone of the program in Hancock County. Shellee also volunteers as a judge during the 4-H fair. We are extremely grateful for her continued commitment to the 4-H program.

4-H International Exchange Program

The Summer Inbound programs bring youth to the U.S. each summer to stay with a host family for four weeks. Youth are matched with a volunteer American family who wants to share their life with an international visitor, based on a complete compatibility model.

Visiting youth travel in groups and are accompanied by an adult chaperone, who stays in the same state during the program. Host families can participate in welcome orientations and departure events that are organized by the state 4-H office. 4-H Exchange offers four hosting opportunities for families. The Japan Program is the largest and is always in need of hosts.

The Hoskin family of Pike County has hosted Japanese 4-H exchange students for three years. In 2019, they hosted Raku and welcomed him in as a family member. On Raku’s first day, he helped work cattle and cooled off by participating in a water game. Raku was anxious to share food with his host family, as he brought a special pan to teach the Hoskins how to cook egg rolls and prepare a sauce. He also brought Japanese snacks to try.

The Hoskins’ took Raku fishing, he toured John Wood Community College’s Ag Center, attended the opening ceremony for the new Mississippi River bridge, and was one of the first people to walk on the new bridge. Raku’s host family lives in the country, so he experienced a lot of outdoor adventures. Dogs were a favorite of Raku’s, but he also enjoyed kayaking, swimming, biking, camping in the woods, posing for pictures, and being a new member of his host family.

To learn more about this program or to become a host, go to states4hexchange.org
Youth Leadership Academies
At the beginning of the school year, all high school juniors were invited to participate in their county’s youth leadership academy. A limited numbers of applications were accepted on a first come, first served basis. Three youth leader academies were offered: Adams County, Brown/Pike/Schuyler Counties, and Hancock County. More than 60 participants were guided through hands-on, research-based programing that would help them in their future roles as potential leaders. In this program, leadership is defined as taking a step, big or small, in a positive direction to help others - peers, families, schools, communities, etc. Participants met monthly over five sessions to improve awareness of and exposure to relevant issues, including personality awareness, communication, poverty awareness, decision making, assessing risky choices, impact of social media, and budget preparedness. Early on, participants also expressed a voice on issues and needs for youth in their communities, and completed projects to help support various causes. Presentations were given in the last session with parents, school administration, public officials, and community members attending.

Social and Emotional Development Role Model Pilot Programs
In an effort to help support schools with social and emotional development, Illinois Extension partnered with Liberty Schools to implement the pilot project EAGLES CARE. A total of 37 high schoolers, freshmen through seniors, were trained to serve as positive role models, or “difference makers” for their peers and younger students. Youth were encouraged to nominate themselves, or peers who were good at relating to others.

Youth met for four, all-day training sessions to discuss topics, such as exercising personality awareness, exploring personal and school reputations/branding, resisting judgments, recognizing commonalities among peers, identifying healthy boundaries, discussing issues for peers and self, handling stressors, and building strong relationships. These sessions were held off-site and allowed youth to focus without school distractions.

Participants realized that they are not alone in many common issues and that, even though they may have known each other all their lives, they really did not “know” each other. The realization that assumptions can be misguided had a powerful impact on all. As a result, action groups were formed to address the following focuses for the entire school: 1) helping others realize that it’s OK to struggle, 2) recognizing issues with self esteem, 3) designating Teen Teachers to teach younger grades about social and emotional development, 4) resisting stereotypes, and 5) connecting with parents. This effort has continued into the 2019-20 school year and includes 14 more youth being trained. Participants spoke about their success and passion for the program at the State 4-H Staff Team Meeting held in Champaign in September.
Adams County Ag in the Classroom
During the 2018-19 school year, the Adams County Agricultural Literacy Program visited 106 classrooms. The coordinator conducted 353 classroom programs, teaching 2,532 students about agriculture and natural resources topics. Programming also included nine lessons for the Kroc Center summer program, four lessons at Kiddie Korner Day Care, and one lesson for Clayton Public Library. Twenty-eight classrooms borrowed materials. In addition, the program hosted activities at Gardener Camp and reached nearly 2,000 people through the Adams County Fair Ag Tent.

Hancock County Ag in the Classroom
The Hancock County Agricultural Literacy Program visited 93 classrooms and conducted 644 programs, reaching 1,756 students. Warsaw FFA members helped with programs at the Warsaw Elementary School. Seventeen hours of educator workshops were conducted, reaching 34 educators. Twelve teachers spent two days in June learning about agriculture manufacturing. Teachers from Carthage, Dallas City, LaHarpe, Nauvoo, and Warsaw schools earned professional development hours touring area facilities including the hammer and small tool factory, Vaughan & Bushnell, Titan Wheel, Knapheide Manufacturing, and Mill Creek Farms. Extension staff taught about farm safety at the WIEC Safety Day and the Farm Bureau's Down on the Farm Day, held a coloring contest for second graders during Illinois Agriculture Week, organized Arbor Day presentations for all third grade classrooms, and coordinated a sixth grade poster contest for the Hancock County Soil & Water Conservation District. They also set up a strawberry learning station at Carthage Farmer's Market Kids Day.

Alvera Bardon, age 99, and her daughter Barabara Bockhaus, right, were announced as the Illinois Ag in the Classroom Volunteers of the Year. They spend many hours each week helping with the program.
Local Foods and Small Farms
Katie Parker has joined Illinois Extension as a Local Foods and Small Farms educator serving Adams, Brown, Hancock, Pike, and Schuyler counties. Growing up on a farm in Ursa, Illinois, Katie has been exposed to agriculture all her life. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture at Western Illinois University. With a desire to learn more, she earned a Master of Science degree in Crop Science at University of Illinois. As a graduate assistant in Dr. Fred Below’s lab, Katie conducted research on commercial and precommercial product placement for corn and soybeans. Before joining Extension, Katie worked as a research agronomist for startup companies and for Bayer, conducting research on plant growth regulators, corn production systems, and trait evaluation.

Katie has a desire to provide support and educational resources to area farmers on topics like dealing with farm stress, the legalization of hemp in Illinois, and corn and soybean management practices. As a local educator, she plans to provide programs and resources to women in agriculture through Annie’s Project. She also plans to reach out to local producers to better understand their needs and set up farm tours for community members to better understand how and where their food is grown. Katie has hit the ground running and is eager to provide support to our local counties.

Gardener’s Palette
The 24th Annual Gardener’s Palette took place in March at John Wood Community College, with more than 100 people in attendance. This annual event offers a variety of breakout sessions, keynote speakers, a vendor fair, and much more. The all-day event provides a wealth of information for both new and experienced gardeners in the area.

Adams County Master Gardeners began planning in June of the previous year to bring this fun, educational opportunity to Quincy. Gardener’s Palette participants were able to select from a variety of topics, which included landscapes and your brain, landscapes and recovering from stress, managing weeds, going organic, body smart gardening, establishing a backyard orchard, sensational shrubs, edibles of the vegetables, fruits in the garden, and rain gardens. A very popular new addition was a make-and-take workshop, where participants were able to create their own floral arrangement to take home.

If you are interested in learning more about the Master Gardener program, please contact Jennifer Shelts at jshelts@illinois.edu.
ABCs of School Nutrition

The ABCs of School Nutrition was created after the partnership between the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and Illinois Extension began in 2015. The program provides professional development opportunities for school nutrition professionals across the state. In addition to trainings, Extension has been able to work directly with schools to introduce methods and strategies for marketing their meals to students. This partnership also seeks to educate kitchen staff and students on the importance of a balanced diet.

Extension Outreach Associate Leah Erke travels to schools to deliver on-site trainings to food service employees. Leah has taught classes on cooking with herbs and spices to enhance flavor, cooking recipes provided by USDA for schools, implementation of Breakfast After the Bell, and numerous others. Funding from grants has allowed for the purchase of food scales, flavor station racks, chef's knives, and colorful educational posters for more than 20 schools. Leah hopes this new partnership will increase the knowledge and skills of their food service staff, ensuring that good-tasting, nutritious food is served to our children daily.

For more info on the ABCs of School Nutrition, visit schoolnutrition.extension.illinois.edu

Since working with Leah, I feel more comfortable with the paperwork that is necessary. She has explained production records to me and has made them easier to understand! I am confident I’m serving the correct meal components and sharing that information with the lunch monitors. Leah has been a wealth of knowledge!

MOLLY SHOEMAKER, GRIGGSVILLE-PERRY
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program educators provided trainings to schools, community centers, youth and early childhood centers, and food pantries located throughout our unit. SNAP-Ed workers strive to assist families to make smarter food choices to improve health and quality of life.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM EDUCATION (SNAP-EDUCATION)

SNAP-Education works with Illinois families in need to make the healthier choice an easier choice where they eat, shop, live, play and learn. Through classes and workshops, and by collaborating with community partners to adopt research-based solutions to encourage healthier nutrition and activity choices, SNAP-Education positively impacts the families and communities we serve.

Serving Local Families

- 2,207 Total SNAP-Education Participants
- 50% Adults
- 50% Youth

RACE OF PARTICIPANTS

- 96% White (2,124)
- 4% Black (83)
- <1% American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, or Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (11)

Our Community Partners

- 16 K-12 Schools
- 6 Early Childhood
- 3 Community Centers
- 12 Food Pantries and Food Banks
Volunteers

The mission of Illinois Extension is to serve the residents of Illinois as we work collaboratively to enhance quality of life for families, and economic resilience and vitality for our businesses and communities. This work isn’t possible without an army of passionate, dedicated volunteers who generously give of their time and talent.

Thank you to all our volunteers who play an essential role within Extension! Pictured below are just a few of our many volunteers.

Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.

ELIZABETH ANDREW

Volunteer Jim Rahe (right) at the Pike County 4-H General Show.

Adams County 4-H volunteer, Linda Kill, receiving her award for 4-H Leader of the Year.

Left: Visual arts judges at the Adams County 4-H Fair. Right: Schuyler County volunteer, Morris McClelland, discusses vegetable gardening entries.

Volunteers from Brown and Schuyler counties brave the cold at the annual 4-H pork chop fundraiser.

Burnside Rising Stars 4-H leaders, Teresa Guymon, Karen Bisby, and Cinda Brodie, working the Pepsi food wagon during the Hancock 4-H Fair.

To learn more, visit extension.illinois.edu/abhps/volunteeringuniversity-illinois-extension
### 2019-2020 Extension Council

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Our Mission

As Extension professionals, we: **Focus** on critical economic, environmental, leadership, youth, and family development issues. **Engage** people in lifelong learning. **Address** emerging needs by developing programs that anticipate social, economic, and policy changes. **Apply** valid, reliable research and information. **Bring** together and extend University of Illinois resources. **Maximize** resources by initiating and organizing community coalitions. **Educate** without discrimination and employ people representing the diversity of Illinois’ population. **Recruit** and develop volunteers to multiply outreach. **Teach** with appropriate and effective educational techniques and methods. **Value** teamwork, recognizing and supporting the contributions of others.
Cover photos: (Top Left) Master Gardeners visit the Rexroat Prairie in Virginia, IL. (Top Right) Students participating in an after school Makey-Makey workshop. (Bottom Left) Kaden proudly displaying his 1st year Swine Showmanship award. (Bottom Right) Western Illinois Leadership Academy’s Class of 2019.