



February 2022

# IMPACTING YOU

Serving Coles, Cumberland, Douglas, Moultrie, and Shelby Counties

## Unit 19 New County Director



Across the state, University of Illinois Extension staff stationed in county offices strive to meet families, businesses, and communities where they are and provide solutions to local issues.

In January, Illinois Extension welcomed new County Extension Director Jessie McClusky to Coles, Cumberland, Douglas, Moultrie, and Shelby counties.

“Jessie brings with her tremendous experience in building networks and partnerships and utilizing those partnerships to fund programs,” says Doug Harlan, Illinois Extension interim regional director for southern Illinois.

McClusky will guide and work with a team of educators and program staff to deliver research-based knowledge to extend university resources to communities in Central Illinois.

“I look forward to helping individuals and local organizations see what could be possible and working through Extension to help them be successful,” McClusky says.

Before joining Extension, McClusky worked for 10 years at Parkland College where she focused on career training and professional development courses. McClusky has served on several statewide boards, including Leadership Illinois and the Illinois Council for Continuing Education and Training. In 2019, she received the Forty Under 40 award for her achievements in leadership and community involvement.

McClusky has a master’s degree in higher education administration from University of South Dakota and a bachelor’s degree in recreation and park administration from Illinois State University.

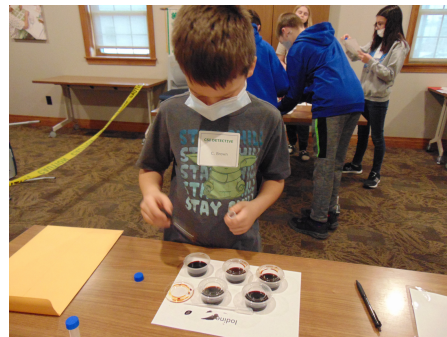
One can reach McClusky at [mcclusk2@illinois.edu](mailto:mcclusk2@illinois.edu) or (217) 543-3755.

Illinois Extension educators and specialists connect every county in Illinois with university research through in-person and distance-learning programming and other educational outreach. They work to provide businesses, families, and agricultural producers with the practical tools and resources needed to solve problems.

# CSI Workshop in Moultrie-Douglas 4-H

## Who Killed Dr. Cosmo?

Monday, January 17th, 6 intrepid detectives from Moultrie-Douglas and Coles County 4-H solved the case of "Who Killed Dr. Cosmo" a CSI workshop.



## Archeology talk focuses on early Native American cultures in Illinois

An upcoming Prairie's Edge Master Naturalists event will give attendees the opportunity to learn about early Native American cultures in Illinois through archeological information.

The Master Naturalists have arranged for Fred Christensen, president of the East Central Illinois Archeological Society, to present "Illinois Archeology, An Overview" at 6 p.m. Feb. 8 at the Douglas-Hart Nature Center in Mattoon.

People have lived in Illinois for 12,000 years, and archaeology provides most of the information about them for all but the last four centuries. Ways of life during that era ranged from the Paleo-Indian Ice Age hunters and gatherers through the mound building Hopewell and Mississippian cultures to the Native American peoples contacted by 17th-century French missionaries and fur traders.

Christensen will describe these cultures, and the scientific techniques used now to understand them. He is a former history instructor at University of Kentucky and ROTC instructor at U of I, and he taught the Army's Command and General Staff Course for eight years.

Registration is free for Christensen's talk at the Nature Center, 2204 DeWitt Ave. Attendees can register at <https://go.illinois.edu/digillinois> or call the Extension office in Coles County at 217-345-7034. To maintain a safe environment for all, Extension is requiring participants to wear a face covering and practice social distancing guidelines at this event.

**Coles Office**  
217-345-7034

**Cumberland Office**  
217-849-3931

**Moultrie and Douglas County  
Office 217-543-3757**

**Shelbyville Office**  
217-774-9546



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