

# espconnection

Number CXLIV

The Newsletter of Epsilon Sigma Phi

June/July 2018

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## Make your reservations today



**2018 National ESP Conference**  
**October 1-4, 2018, Manhattan, KS**

## Early Bird Registration is Open!

Feel free to call or email your  
ESP National Office for questions or  
suggestions.

esppoffice@espnational.org  
470-347-0394



## Vast Prairies and Endless Possibilities—Join us in Kansas in October

*Beth Claypoole, National President*

The National Board and our Kansas State Colleagues are hard at work, preparing for our national meeting in Manhattan, Kansas in October. I hope that that you will join us to celebrate our success, network with colleagues, and increase knowledge through participating in tours and seminars. This newsletter is full of information to help you plan your travels and think about participating in this professional development opportunity!

I want to also send out congratulations to our newly elected ESP Board members: Peggy Compton, Daphne Richards and Travis West. These are excellent people who have volunteered their time and will represent you in the best way possible! I even have personal knowledge of their enthusiasm for ESP: Peggy and I were on the board together as Regional VP's, I connect with Travis each year at the National Meeting, and if the video is any indication, Daphne will also be a great addition to the team!

I challenge everyone to reach out to your state colleagues and get a group of 5 together to head out to the national meeting so that you can bring back ideas that will not only help your local ESP chapter, but will also add to your professional development toolbox to help in your day to day work in extension. There is so much to learn from each other – every individual has something to share and something to learn. I have been in Extension for more than 20 years and I still learn something new at every meeting I attend.

The conference planning committee, Co-Chaired by Jennifer Wilson and Stacey Warner, are doing a super job keeping their committees on task and making sure that everyone will have an excellent experience in Kansas. For all life members – Past President Jim Lindquist is also planning activities for you!

Please read through this newsletter carefully – there is important information on hotel and airline reservations and timing for arrival (we are competing with a Kansas State football game on the weekend for travel and hotel arrangements).

Thanks again for being an important member of ESP and I look forward to seeing everyone in October!

## 2018 Distinguished Service Ruby Recipient

Epsilon Sigma Phi's most prestigious level of recognition, the Distinguished Service Ruby award, is designed to recognize outstanding leadership, innovative thinking and sustained exceptional performance across a lifetime of career service in Extension. It is a great honor to recognize Dr. Tim Cross, Chancellor-University of Tennessee, Institute of Agriculture, as the 2018 Epsilon Sigma Phi Distinguished Service Ruby award recipient.

Dr. Ann Berry, past ESP National President stated that, "the Tennessee Omega Chapter is honored that our Chancellor, Dr. Tim Cross, is this year's recipient of this prestigious award. Dr. Cross is humble, and was reluctant to let us submit his nomination. But we knew that he truly deserves this recognition. He has made significant contributions at the state, regional, national and international levels in Extension outreach throughout his career."

Over the past 30 years, Dr. Cross has served as an instructor, professor, Extension specialist, Dean and Chancellor. He continues to be recognized nationally as an outstanding administrator and dedicated leader. Dr. Cross earned both B.S. and M.S. degrees in Agricultural Economics from Oklahoma State University, and his Doctorate in Agricultural and Resource Economics from Oregon State University. His many opportunities for service include serving on the National Impact Database Committee, the Joint Committee of ECOP and ESCOP, National Extension Committee on Policy, APLU Board on Ag Assembly, and the Tennessee Governor's Rural Task Force and Health Committee. Dr. Cross established a strategic plan that has improved statewide Extension branding, implemented a peer mentoring program, developed professional development training for faculty and agents, and provided a healthy lifestyles program for all Extension employees. Through his leadership, grant and other funding, as well as endowments to the Tennessee Extension program increased significantly. His teaching, publications and economic expertise have had significant influence at a national level, as well as internationally through foreign assignments to Croatia, China, Hungary and North Yemen.



Dr. Cross has been actively involved in Epsilon Sigma Phi since 1996, and served as the Tennessee Omega Chapter Vice-President from 1998-2000. He has financially supported ESP scholarship efforts, and has presented at national ESP conferences as part of the Administrator's Panel. His colleagues have described him as "committed, engaging, reliable, kind, supportive, humorous, knowledgeable, and a fantastic communicator". It is an honor for the 2018 Epsilon Sigma Phi Board of Directors to present Dr. Tim Cross as the 2018 Ruby recipient for Distinguished Service. It is well deserved and his significant efforts on behalf of Extension are very much appreciated!

*Karen D. Reddersen*

*ESP Northeast Regional VP, Chair-Scholarships, Grants and Recognition Committee*



Please join us for the  
**Distinguished Service Ruby Luncheon and Lecture**  
honoring Dr. Tim Cross  
**Tuesday, October 2, 2018, 11:30 am-1:00 pm**

## Congratulations New ESP National Board Members



Peggy Compton, Wisconsin Alpha Sigma Chapter, has been elected as the next 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the National Epsilon Sigma Phi Board of Directors. A member of ESP since 2006, Peggy has been active at the local and national level. A Past-President of the Alpha Sigma Chapter and past North Central Region Vice President, Peggy has a long history of service to ESP. She has served as Chair of the National Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee and is currently active on the National Professional Development Committee. "I am passionate about ESP and the work that we do supporting the Extension profession and the Extension professional", says Peggy. She will take office at the National Conference in October. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President begins a four-year appointment serving as President during the third year.



The National ESP Board will also welcome two new regional vice-presidents. Both positions will serve a two-year term. Daphne Richards, a member since 2000 and Past-President of the Texas Alpha Zeta Chapter, joins the National Board as the Southern Region Vice-President. Daphne states, "Joining ESP made a difference in my career very early, connecting me to successful colleagues and mentors that I might otherwise not have met." Her Alpha Zeta work has also included the role of secretary and three committee chairs: Professionalism Committee, Awards & Recognition, and Global Relations Chair.

The North Central Region Vice President will be filled by Travis West. Joining ESP in 2006 he has only recently finished his term as President of the Ohio Alpha Eta Chapter. With the Alpha Eta Chapter Travis has served on the chapter Scholarships, Grants and Recognition Committee since 2009 serving as chair-elect, chair and past chair. Travis was sold on national involvement after his first national conference in 2009. He stated about that conference, "I felt like every attendee I interacted with at the conference had a genuine interest in my Extension programming and wanted to assist me in any way they could to make sure that I was successful as an Extension professional." Since then, Travis has served on three national committees. Congratulations to our two new regional vice presidents!



## Important Dates for Your Calendar!

### AUGUST

- August 24, Deadline for Electronic Registration of Voting Delegates for 2018 National Council Meeting
- August 30, Early Bird Registration ends for National Conference in Manhattan, KS, October 1-4, 2018
- August 31, Regular Registration Available for the National Conference in Manhattan, KS, October 1-4, 2018

### SEPTEMBER

- September 1, Room Block closes for the ESP National Conference in Manhattan, KS, October 1-4, 2018
- September 21, Regular Registration ends for the ESP National Conference in Manhattan, KS, October 1-4, 2018
- September 22, Late Registration available for ESP National Conference in Manhattan, KS, October 1-4, 2018

## Come Tour With Us 2018 National Meeting in Manhattan, Kansas

Enjoy wide open spaces of the Flint Hills and much more in the Little Apple, Manhattan, Kansas, as you take in the tours of the 2018 ESP National Meeting on October 1, 2018.



Abilene, Kansas has a rich history as an 1800s Cow Town as the longhorns of Texas were trailed up to Kansas, fattened on the lush grass of the flint hills and then shipped east on the railhead in Abilene. The town was placed on the international map by General Dwight D. Eisenhower in WWII. Take in this important piece of U.S. history as we visit the Eisenhower boyhood home, library, and museum on the We Like Ike tour.

Take in the beauty of the flint hills region as we take a walk on the Konza Prairie, enjoy lunch at the historic Hayes House in Council Grove, home of the Council Oak which is important to Native American history and the settlement of the west in the 1800s. Finally, awe in the beauty of some of the last remaining tallgrass prairie as we tour the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve.

Uniquely K-State will feature the nation's first Land Grant University with its native limestone buildings and its importance to international agriculture. We will tour the Wheat Innovation Center, the International Grains Program, and the bioresearch facility. This tour will finish with a driving tour through the campus.



Life members will have the opportunity to see K-State's limestone buildings and tour programs unique

to Kansas State University. Stops include the Kansas State University Gardens, Insect Zoo, Wheat Innovation Center, the College of Human Ecology Sensory Analysis Center and a special stop at the KSU Dairy Bar for delicious K-State Ice Cream. Learn about NBAF - The National Bio and Agro-defense Facility will be America's foremost animal disease research facility. It's being constructed on the K-State campus by the U.S.

Department of Homeland Security.

Come early or stay a few days and enjoy camping and boating at one of two lakes in the region or visit historic sites such as Fort Riley near Junction City; the Columbian Theater and Oz Museum in Wamego, or the Beecher Bible and Rifle Church, that was an important link in the underground railroad during the civil war era.

Don't just fly over, stop and enjoy our vast prairies and endless possibilities.



## The National ESP Public Issues Committee Announces the 2018 Elevator Speech Contest

*Jennifer Grogan, ESP Southern Region VP and Public Issues Committee Chair*

The National ESP Public Issues (PI) Committee members hope that you will plan to join them and video your elevator speech during the upcoming National ESP Conference “Vast Prairies-Endless Possibilities,” October 1-4, in Manhattan, Kansas.

The fluctuation of funding has made communicating the role, impact, and value of Extension a necessity for all Extension professionals. Can you gain support by communicating the value of Extension in a brief, persuasive speech? Sometimes, you may only have 20-30 seconds—the time spent in an elevator—to create interest. Spend some time composing and practicing your elevator speech—remember only 20-30 seconds long. Come to the National Conference prepared to video your speech for the PI Committee Elevator Speech Contest. Not only will entering the contest provide practice, but you will win a monetary incentive if you place 1st, 2nd or 3rd. Specific times and places for recording your elevator speech will be posted at the conference. We hope to see you there!

***Jennifer Grogan can be reached by email at [jgrogan@uga.edu](mailto:jgrogan@uga.edu)***

## Invitation to attend the 2018 National ESP Conference from the ESP National Professional Development Committee

I am extending a hearty invitation to attend our 2018 National ESP Conference which will be held October 1-4 in Manhattan, KS. Members of the Professional Development Committee have been working diligently to encourage abstract submissions and subsequently choosing presentation topics that would be relevant across geographies and programs. And we have not forgotten our life members and those newer to Extension! Concurrent sessions will be offered in the areas of leadership, administration, emerging issues, onboarding of new colleagues, and general information relevant to current and retired Extension professionals. These themes were chosen based on YOUR input shared in the 2017 conference evaluation.

Still not convinced of the value in attending the ESP National Conference? Here is just a short list of what will be offered in the conference concurrent sessions:

- ◆ learn effective strategies for dealing with difficult people
- ◆ receive materials that will help you replicate a grant-writing workshop
- ◆ learn strategies to shape your retirement plans
- ◆ hear lessons learned while developing relevant and responsive programs for Latinos
- ◆ learn easy, interactive and low-cost evaluation tools to improve your programming
- ◆ gather resources for recertification of Extension 4-H volunteers
- ◆ learn innovative ways to use online and hybrid courses to increase accessibility of your Extension programs
- ◆ learn strategies to connect, engage and inform elected officials
- ◆ learn and practice writing a quality professional abstract



*Submitted by Peggy Compton on behalf of the National Professional Development Committee*



**Register Today!**  
**2018 National ESP Conference**  
**October 1-4, 2018, Manhattan, KS**

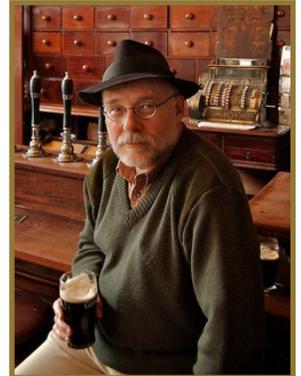
## 2018 ESP National Conference—Outstanding Keynote Speakers

Jim Richardson is a photographer for National Geographic Magazine and a contributing editor for its sister publication, TRAVELER Magazine. Richardson has photographed more than 30 stories for National Geographic.

Richardson's work takes him around the world, from the tops of volcanic peaks to below the surface of swamps and wetlands. ABC News Nightline produced a story about the long process of assembling a National Geographic coverage by following Richardson in the field and at National Geographic Society headquarters in Washington, D.C.

In addition to his color photography, Richardson has built a distinguished body of black-and-white documentary work about rural Kansas life. His audiovisual presentation, "Reflections From a Wide Spot in the Road," has toured internationally. A 22-page story about his 30 years of photographing life in the north central Kansas town of Cuba, population 230, was published in National Geographic and featured twice by CBS News Sunday Morning, most recently in May 2004. His 1979 study of adolescence, "High School USA," is now considered a photo essay classic and is used in college classrooms. He was named Kansan of the Year in 2007 by the Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas.

Richardson speaks nationally and internationally. He lives in Lindsborg, Kansas, where his work is featured at his gallery, Small World, on Lindsborg's Main Street.



According to Clifton L. Taulbert, noted author and entrepreneur businessman, he could have failed had he not encountered community builders and entrepreneurial thinkers early on in his life. Taulbert was born on the Mississippi Delta during the era of legal segregation where he completed his secondary education. Though opportunities were few and barriers were plentiful, Taulbert managed to dream of being successful, not knowing the shape that success would take.

Today Taulbert is the President and CEO of the Freemount Corporation (a human capital development company) serving clients nationally and internationally-Fortune 500 Companies, small businesses, federal agencies, professional organizations, community colleges and K-12 leadership. Additionally, entrepreneur Taulbert is the President and CEO of [Roots Java Coffee](#) -an African-American owned national coffee brand, importing coffee from Africa. To pass his life lessons along, Taulbert shares his entrepreneurial journey with others as a [Thrive15.com](#) mentor.

Dr. JoAnne Owens-Nauslar has spent 43 years promoting the benefits of healthy active living. She is considered one of the nation's most vocal personalities on issues of physical activity and the need for physical education in the critical core day.

JoAnne has been described as Past President of almost everything, including the National Association for Sport and Physical Education; the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance; and The Husker Athletic Fund.

She has taught at all levels and was the State Director for Comprehensive Health and Physical Education at the Nebraska Department of Education for 19 years. For 9 years, Dr. Owens-Nauslar held the title of Director of Professional Development for the American School Health Association. In 2004, she decided to make a change and join corporate America to share her beliefs.

With more than 2,000 keynotes, presentations, and trainings to her credit, she has enlightened and entertained corporate America, non-profit organizations, school personnel, faith-based groups, children/youth, school boards, policy makers, and stake holders. When you see JoAnne live, you will have the opportunity to laugh, learn, network, and share, while being reminded that we must "move to improve."



## ESP Affinity Groups increases visibility at National Conference in Manhattan, KS

Interested participants can take part in the ESP Affinity Groups Concurrent Session on Wednesday, October 3, 2018 from 11:15am to 12:10pm. Following the concurrent session will be the Latino and Urban Affinity Group Discussion Luncheon from 12:15pm to 1:45pm.

### Plan your travel and hotel accommodations now for the National Conference!!

Hotel availability in Manhattan will be very limited on Friday, September 28 and Saturday, September 29 due to a Big 12 Football Game in Manhattan Saturday. ESP Conference attendees should delay arrival until Sunday, September 30, unless lodging arrangements have been made. Additionally, the Manhattan Regional Airport has limited flights, so book early for this airport.



### Double Your Donation Now—1 for 1 Matching Challenge

The ESP Development Fund “Matching Campaign” began in April with an anonymous donor contribution of \$10,000 to be used to match gifts to ESP until August 31, 2018. This is a great opportunity for ESP and you. Your gift is tax deductible and you get credit in the ESP Key Level recognition. [Donations](#) can be made by credit card online or by mail.

Last month’s edition of Connection featured an article on giving to ESP Development Fund. Read the full article, [“Score a Home Run for ESP”](#) in the April/May Newsletter.



Will you get your pin at the National Conference? Be sure to give \$100 or more between now and conference time to receive your 2018 National Conference pin. Donations to the Matching Campaign after June 1 will count toward receiving your conference pin.



<https://epsilonsigmaphi.wildapricot.org/Donations>