Dear Zeta Chapter Members,

As president of our chapter, I was honored, with your support, to be able to attend the Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) meeting in Orlando last month. If you want one good reason to consider becoming an officer in one of your professional organizations, and believe me, there are many good ones, the chance to attend national meetings such as JCEP and PILD (Public Issues Leadership Development) should be high on the list. It’s inspiring to be in a conference center full of people all dedicated to serving their communities through Extension work. It is heartening to see the work that is done to support and promote our work at the highest levels of government. And it is energizing to meet others from across the country to hear their new ideas, share their struggles and celebrate our common efforts. While much of our professional development is very specific around our program areas, conferences such as these give us a chance to expand ourselves as Extension professionals, testing new leadership skills, practicing effective ways to communicate our messages, learning how to engage new audiences and so much more.

My goal for this year is to connect all of you to the activities and opportunities of our state chapter and make you aware of the resources and opportunities the national organization provides. We are poised to be in the perfect position for both as we await news on our 2019 National Conference bid. (see pg 2).

Christy

Apply for ESP Zeta Professional Development Funds

There is money budgeted annually for ESP Zeta members who need financial support for upcoming professional development opportunities. These funds don’t necessarily have to be used for conferences, but can be used for textbooks, curriculum, etc. for helping you in your professional development path.

Awards of up to $200 are available through a simple one-page application process. The application is on the ESP Zeta web site: [http://esp.colostate.edu/docs/scholarship-esp.pdf](http://esp.colostate.edu/docs/scholarship-esp.pdf) in the left column under State: Scholarship Application. After completing the application, e-mail to Sheila Kelley: Sheila.kelley@colostate.edu.
Zeta Chapter News

2019 ESP National Conference Bid
Approximately 20 ESP members have worked to identify the proposed site for the 2019 National ESP Conference. Our committee started out looking at Steamboat Springs, Ft. Collins, Denver, Colorado Springs, and Pueblo. Our Zeta Executive Board reviewed the packages and decided to go with the Colorado Springs proposal. Christy sent the package to the National ESP Office today. Assuming we get the nod from them following the mid-year meeting in June, we will start forming committees to address the various requirements to pull off the conference. This will include reaching out to the other states in the western region who might be able to support us. The proposed hotel is The Antlers, located downtown. You can see more info by going to their website at www.antlers.com. It is a 4-Star Hotel and pricing for both a king or two queens will be $139 plus tax. The opening ceremony will be at the Olympic Training Center, which is two miles from the hotel, where we will be able to meet some of the athletes and have a dynamic opening ceremony with the lighting of the Olympic Torch! We believe this will be a memorable way to start the conference and highlight the theme, which we are projecting will be something like “Brining out the Champion Within” or “Reaching for Your Inner Gold.” This supports the Colorado Springs motto of “City of Champions.”

We are looking forward to the support from membership that will make us a stronger organization and bring in some funds since we receive 25% of any profits the conference generates. I look forward to working with you over the next several years to make this the best National ESP Conference ever!

Sincerely,
Mark J. Platten
2019 National Conference Committee Chair

Zeta Chapter Virtual Community Service Project
This year our chapter would like to do some kind of community service project that we can all work on in our own place. Sheila Kelley suggested that we collect soaps and shampoos and then have the Resource Development committee decide where they should go. But we are also open to other ideas. If you have an idea that would be a good way to “give back” as a group, please let one of our officers know this month!

The 2017 ESP National Conference will be in Wilmington, North Carolina
October 8 - 12, 2017 at the Hilton Wilmington Riverside
Learn more at https://espnational.org/en/2017-esp-national-conference
There is a lot going on at the national level at ESP! Hopefully you all receive the national ESP newsletter and have already seen these items. If you are not receiving the newsletter via email, please let Christy know!

National ESP has scholarships available for those wishing to get some financial assistance to attend professional development opportunities. It is too late for the Angus Professional Development Scholarship applications and the Professional Development Grants due March 1, but keep those in mind for next year. The Redinger Administrator Leader Scholarships, available to a first time attendee who has some administrative responsibility, to the ESP National Conference in Wilmington, NC in October 2017 will be due by May 1. Last year we did not receive enough applications to give out all of these scholarships, we do not want a repeat of that this year.

Next, we are seeking proposals to present concurrent sessions, ignite sessions and poster sessions at the 2017 ESP National Conference in Wilmington, NC in October. This is an excellent opportunity to share your knowledge and experiences with your Extension colleagues. There will be stipends for those who are selected to present at the conference this fall, so it is an excellent way to get some help getting to the conference. The proposals are to be submitted online at the ESP website and they must be submitted by March 20th, so don’t put it off any longer, submit a proposal.

Finally, we are seeking candidates to fill the expiring terms of the Northeast Region Vice President, the Western Region Vice President and the National 2nd Vice President who will also come from the Western Region this year. These are excellent opportunities for individuals to gain national leadership experience. The applications for these positions are due on April 1. Rusty Collins from Denver has been the Western Region VP for the past year so if you are interested, talk to him about what being in this position would be like.
Committee Updates

Are you on a committee yet?? We have quite a few members who have not signed up for a committee. We are planning to have our Executive Board contact you to see which committee you would like to be part of! Not sure which one? Read on…

Whether you have been in ESP for a while or you are a brand new member, we all have questions about what exactly our ESP Committees do. Our goal this year is to describe one or two committees in each newsletter so you will know more about what they do and which is a good fit for you and also to have our committees be more active. To get the official descriptions, you can go to our Zeta Chapter website and see Standing Committees at http://esp.colostate.edu/standing-cmtes.shtml

This month let’s highlight the Global Relations Committee. At our ESP meetings at JCEP we had many opportunities to hear about international work that can be done through Extension. Who knew that you can go to many different countries to do agriculture and youth education?

Did you know that one of roles of our chapter Global Relations Committee is to “Solicit applicants for the Regional International Service Award?” What a great chance to find out which of our colleagues are doing some of this international work and recognize their efforts. The other tasks are to Promote awareness and enthusiasm for international Cooperative Extension programs among Zeta Chapter members and to establish a communication system via the internet and create a hot link to various international organizations. We have great resources at the national level to help us do just this. Christy will be heading up this committee this year and we only have a couple of members so far. We’ll be planning quarterly phone or zoom meetings to work on promoting international work experiences for our Extension colleagues!

A second committee for you to consider is Resource Development which we usually combine with our Budget and Audit committees. As you know, our chapter awards financial support for professional development for our members. We need to keep funds flowing in so we can continue to have them flowing out! So one role of this committee is to “conduct activities to increase monies available for professional development.” If you are a champion fundraiser, or even if you aren’t, we could use your ideas for fun and effective fundraising. Our Treasurer Dennis Kaan will head up this group.
Retired? Thinking of retiring? Keep reading.

ESP Life members have all the same privileges and opportunities as annual ESP members. You can hold office, receive recognition, serve on committees and stay connected. There are special national ESP programs designed just for retired Life members. And you can fit it within your retirement life style! Don’t let your expertise retire!

And Not Just for Retirees.... The 2017 Retiree BBQ

Mark your calendar now to be in Windsor, Colorado on Friday, June 9 for the 2017 Extension Retiree Annual BBQ. The best part is, you don’t have to be retired to attend. All Extension professionals are welcome to join in the fun - a great opportunity to re-connect with some of your former colleagues.

The BBQ will be at Pelican Lakes Golf Course in Windsor. Details about this year’s event will be mailed to all Extension retirees in early May. The event starts with a no-host social hour in the clubhouse around 4:30 and the BBQ dinner around 6. There’s time for sharing what’s happening and an update on Colorado Extension activities. You might even win a door prize.

And if Retirement is Just a Gleam in Your Eye and an Empty Feeling in Your Pocket...

A couple of years ago, Laurel Kubin presented a very enlightening webinar called Planning for Retirement in 40, 30, 20, 10 Years as part of our ESP Professional Development offerings. If you weren’t even thinking about retirement then and you missed it, this webinar has been archived and can be found at http://esp.colostate.edu/pd.shtml. Remember that ESP is about developing you as an Extension Professional both professionally and personally! If there are topics you would like to see explored in a future webinar, please let one of our officers know.

eXtension Notes– the GoTo Source for All Extension Professionals!

Do you know about eXtension??

eXtension is an online platform of people, resources and tools that supports the Cooperative Extension System nationwide. It provides Extension professionals—educators, agents, faculty and specialists—with resources that focus on:

- Increasing Extension professionals’ effectiveness in addressing issues of importance to the nation;
- Fostering creativity and innovation in developing solutions and methods of work; and
- Advancing the visible and measurable impact of their work for the public good.

eXtension is your go-to resource for national engagement (https://extension.org/6-new-ways-to-engage-now/); professional development (https://extension.org/tools-for-extension-professionals/professional-development/); and current tools to enhance your effectiveness such as webinar and course presentation platforms; articles; 70 communities of practices; and “Ask an Expert” (ask.extension.org) which allows the public to quickly connect with Extension advising online. For more information on how you can get started or grow with eXtension, go to: https://extension.org/get-started/growth-of-extension-communities/.
Notes on Innovation…

What is innovation in Extension?

A message from Jamie Seger and Paul Hill at JCEP…

We want you to quit!

What do we quit in order to make time to consider innovation? How do we make time for at least 4 hours a week of “nothing” time when we reflect carefully on what’s working, what isn’t, what have we always done that we don’t need to do any more? What busy work could we give up? What are we producing that we don’t need to produce anymore? What dots are out there that I could connect in a new way?


But as Jamie and Paul say… Don’t read the report!

Unless, you can commit to innovation in your work.

As we consider ESP’s role in making us better Extension professionals, ask yourself, “How can thinking about innovation make me a better Extension professional? How can it make my job more effective, more engaging and more just plain more fun????

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**Did you know you can check out what went on at JCEP?**


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**Attend your CSU Extension Regional Meetings**

- Western Region - April 24, 25, 26th in Crested Butte.
- Front Range Region - April 13 at Balistreri Vineyard in Denver.
- Peaks and Plains Region - May 9, 10, 11 in Burlington

Contact your regional office for more details.