

# SCHEDULE AND AWARDS PROGRAM



## WE ARE EXTENSION:

Viewing our work through a lens of excellence



**2022 FALL EXTENSION CONFERENCE  
SEPTEMBER 28-29, 2022**

**MICHIGAN STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

Extension



# NOTES

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*Several attendees have severe allergies related to nuts, mint, menthol, and eucalyptus. Please be mindful of these allergies by not bringing or consuming any of these items during conference sessions. Thank you for being considerate.*



# WELCOME TO THE 2022 FALL EXTENSION CONFERENCE

Welcome to the 2022 Fall Extension Conference (FEC22). We are so excited to be back in person for the first time since 2019, meeting on the beautiful Michigan State University campus.

Thank you for joining us for what is sure to be an excellent conference. FEC22 is built on a hybrid model this year, featuring two conference formats:

- virtual education sessions that have proven effective and efficient
- in-person networking, engagement, celebration, and camaraderie

You'll notice several agenda adjustments this year as we strive to better meet the needs of attendees and incorporate feedback from previous years. Please continue to share your thoughts and feedback so additional improvements can be incorporated. You will receive an evaluation survey at the end of the conference. Please fill that out. You can also share feedback directly to the MSU Extension ANR Event Services team by phone (517-884-7081) or email ([events@anr.msu.edu](mailto:events@anr.msu.edu)).

FEC22 officially kicked off last week with 24 great virtual educational sessions. We hope that time of learning provided new ideas and new thoughts, as well as ignited a level of excitement as we head into the in-person conference this week. Take this time to network and engage with colleagues, explore opportunities for collaboration and advancement, take in all the MSU campus has to offer, and simply enjoy being back together.

With this year's theme **We Are Extension: Viewing our work through a lens of excellence**, we not only reflect and celebrate the accomplishments and excellent work the organization has been doing, but also look toward the future as we learn new skills, establish or strengthen partnerships and collaborations, and work toward excellence in all we do. As 4-H teaches, let's learn by doing and strive to make the best better!



## FEC MOBILE APP

FEC22 will use a conference mobile app to help you stay connected and provide easy access to the information you'll need throughout the conference. If you haven't already, be sure to download the FEC mobile app through Whova. The app brings information about FEC22 directly to your fingertips, from program descriptions to speaker biographies and from facility maps to campus maps. The app will also allow you to create your own personalized schedule.

To get the best FEC22 experience:

- Visit [https://whova.com/portal/falle\\_202208/](https://whova.com/portal/falle_202208/) to view the web portal or download the FEC 2022 mobile app to your device from Whova.
- Once the app is downloaded on your mobile device, create an account. Then, input the event invitation code **svn382c1vw** to find the event.
- You can also visit the Fall Extension Conference website at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/fec/index>.

## FEC SCAVENGER HUNT

On Wednesday, September 28, FEC attendees will join pre-assigned teammates for an afternoon of fun, exploration, and competition as part of the FEC scavenger hunt. This unique activity provides an opportunity to not only get out of the conference center and explore the beautiful MSU campus, but also to connect with colleagues across the state whom you may not know at all or know well.

Teams will be composed of up to eight individuals. View your registration confirmation for your assigned team number. Find your teammates in Big Ten AB by going to the table matching your assigned number. Once your team has gathered, you can begin completing missions as part of the scavenger hunt. Buses will be running on a loop with various stops across campus to help you more easily complete the missions and travel across campus. Hop on and hop off as you complete the missions.

Teams are not expected to complete all missions. Pick the ones that make the most sense for your individual group and focus on doing those well and getting to know your teammates.



## MSU EXTENSION CELEBRATION

Join your Extension colleagues for a tailgate-inspired MSU Extension Celebration at the Breslin Center on Wednesday, September 28. Show your team spirit by wearing your favorite team apparel. The MSU Extension Celebration will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the MSU Hall of History and Breslin Center Concourse with a networking reception and intern poster presentations. Take this opportunity to connect, explore, and enjoy the camaraderie of gathering in person. Home to MSU's basketball teams, the MSU Hall of History features a unique collection of videos, photos, trophies, and player information sure to delight any Spartan fans.

Enjoy a strolling dinner as we explore sports-inspired tasteful delights. After a delicious dinner, move to the arena floor where we'll hear key updates from university leadership, honor Key Partners, and present the Outstanding Service to MSU Extension award. Help us celebrate our partnerships and accomplishments from the past year.

*Attire: Please feel free to dress casually in your favorite team apparel.*

## FEC SERVICE PROJECT

The levels of food insecurity and hunger affecting individuals, families, and communities across Michigan has continued to rise as a result of the pandemic, structural challenges, and economic conditions. Through our annual FEC Service Project, we seek to make a positive collective impact on food insecurity and hunger by encouraging FEC attendees to donate food or money to the hunger-fighting organization of their choice. As a friendly competition, staff made of up teams from each of the 14 MSU Extension districts and one campus-based team will compete to see who can come together to make the biggest collective impact. Earn a point for your team for every dollar and pound of food that you donate as part of the FEC Service Project. Record your donation by 11:59 p.m. on September 28, 2022, at <https://forms.gle/TW1ENeRiivGkR1wM8>. Results of the FEC Service Project will be shared, and the trophy will be awarded during the awards ceremony on Thursday, September 29.



## PROFESSIONAL HEADSHOTS

Need to have your professional headshot taken or have a recent one but don't like how it turned out? Have a new photo taken by a photographer from the MSU Extension Communications team on Wednesday, Sept. 28 from 9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m., during the first hour of the FEC Scavenger Hunt or on Thursday, Sept. 29 from 10:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. in the North Lobby at the Kellogg Center.

## MCEA SILENT AUCTION

As the saying goes, "Bid early and bid often!" at the Michigan Council of Extension Associations (MCEA) silent auction. You can drop donated items off between 8 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 28, at the FEC registration desk. Bidding will open at 1 p.m. and remain open during conference breaks. Bidding will close at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 29. Winning bidders can pay by check (payable to MCEA), cash, or credit card. All items must be paid for and picked up by 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 29.

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

All activities will take place on the lower level of the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center unless otherwise noted. You'll find the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center map on page 12 and the MSU Campus Map and Bus Route on page 24.

## CONFERENCE DAY 1: Wednesday, September 28

TIME	SESSION OR EVENT	LOCATION
8-10 a.m.	Conference Registration MCEA Silent Auction Item Drop-Off	South Lobby
10-11 a.m.	<b>Welcome and Keynote Presentation</b> A Chance of Awesome: How Changing the Way You See Changes Everything - <i>Jason Kotecki</i>	Big Ten AB
11:00 a.m. - 1 p.m.	<b>Director's Office Presentation and Lunch</b> <i>Dr. Quentin Tyler</i>	Big Ten AB
1-1:15 p.m.	Transition Time/Break • MCEA Silent Auction Begins	North Lobby



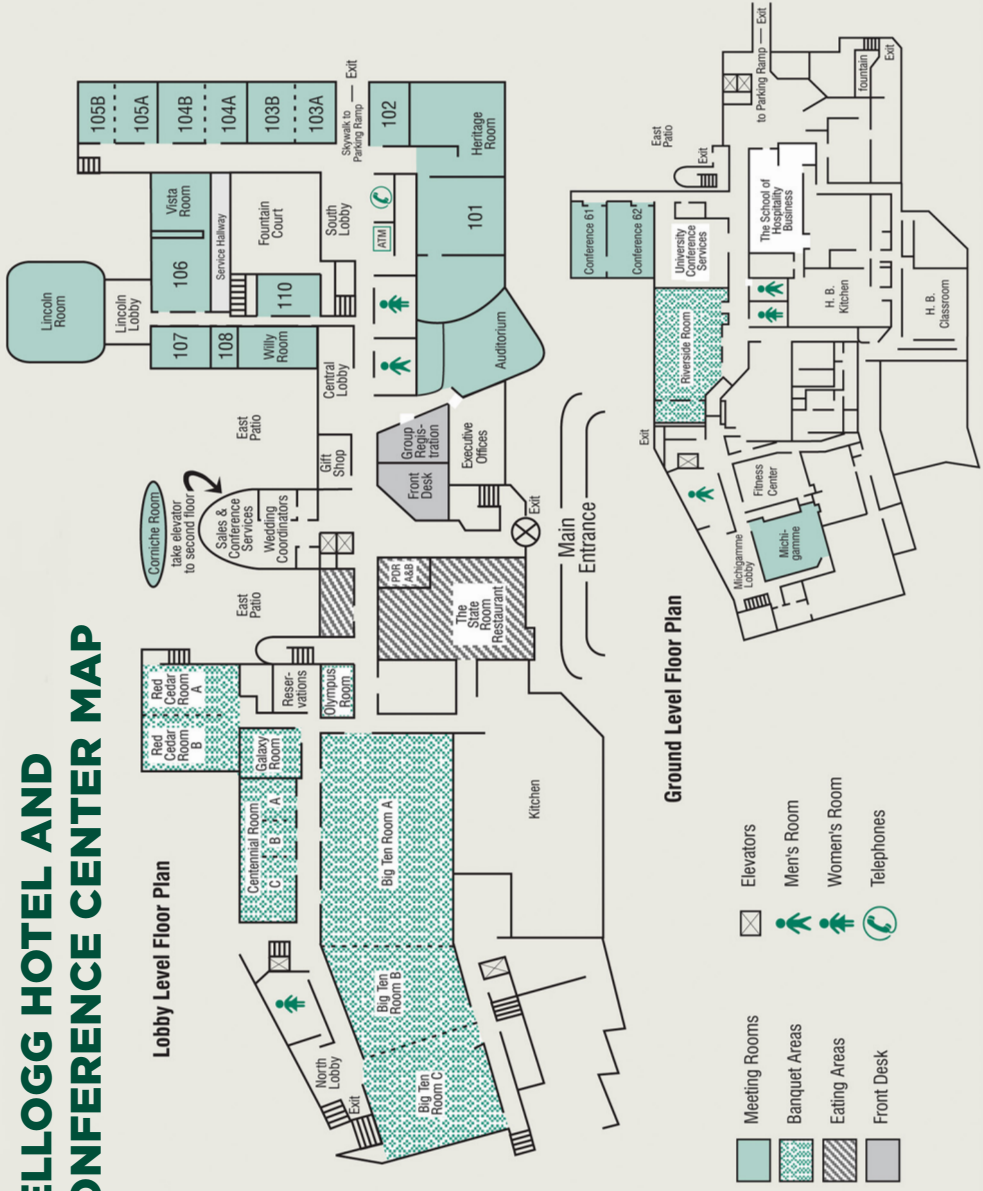
TIME	SESSION OR EVENT	LOCATION
1:15–3:15 p.m.	<p><b>Learning Sessions/Workshop #1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brushing Up Our Presentation Skills: We Sing the Body Electric – <i>Andy McCullough</i></li> <li>• Building Inclusive Communities – <i>Patti Stewart</i></li> <li>• Bystander Intervention Training – <i>Lydia Weiss</i></li> <li>• Digital Organization of Research: Why Using a Citation System Will Save Your Sanity – <i>Suzi Teghtmeyer</i></li> <li>• How to Become a Change Champion – <i>Kathie Elliott</i></li> <li>• Moving from Performative to Transformative DEI Practices – <i>Dionardo Pizaña, Edward Scott</i></li> <li>• Process Mapping for Process Improvement – <i>Kelly Feister, Danielle Hook</i></li> <li>• Using Informed Intuition in Extension Programing/Offices – <i>Christine Heverly, Kea Norrell-Aitch</i></li> </ul>	<p>Room 62 (Ground Level)</p> <p>Room 105 AB</p> <p>Room 104 AB</p> <p>Room 103 AB</p> <p>Lincoln</p> <p>Room 106</p> <p>Big Ten C</p> <p>Red Cedar AB</p>
3:15–5:30 p.m.	<p><b>FEC Scavenger Hunt</b></p> <p>Gather your team in Big Ten AB and then head out to complete missions. Buses will be running through the scavenger hunt to help you get around campus.</p>	Big Ten AB
5:30–8 p.m.	<p><b>MSU Extension Celebration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Networking Reception</li> <li>• Intern Poster Presentations</li> <li>• Strolling Dinner</li> <li>• University Leadership Updates (<i>CANR Dean Kelly Millenbah</i>)</li> <li>• Award Presentations (<i>Key Partner Awards and Outstanding Service to MSU Extension Award</i>)</li> </ul>	Breslin Center

## CONFERENCE DAY 2: Thursday, September 29

TIME	SESSION OR EVENT	LOCATION
7:30-10:30 a.m.	<b>Breakfast Meetings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community, Food &amp; Environment Institute (CFEI)</li> <li>• Agriculture &amp; Agribusiness Institute (AABI)</li> <li>• District &amp; County Support Staff</li> <li>• Tribal Colleagues Gathering <i>No formal program</i></li> <li>• Children &amp; Youth Institute (CYI)</li> <li>• Health &amp; Nutrition Institute (HNI)</li> </ul> <p>Breakfast buffets will be available beginning at 7:30 a.m. in Centennial or the Lincoln Lobby. After going through the buffet, you can eat in your meeting room.</p>	Lincoln
8-10:30 a.m.		Red Cedar AB
8-10:30 a.m.		Willy
8-10:30 a.m.		Room 110
8:15-10:30 a.m. 9-10:30 a.m.		Big Ten C Big Ten AB
10:30-10:45 a.m.	Transition Time/Break <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCEA Silent Auction Bidding Open</li> </ul>	North Lobby
10:45-11:30 a.m.	<b>Awards Presentation</b> <i>MCEA John Hannah Award for Program Excellence; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Impact Award; Innovative Technology Award; and Institute Team Awards</i>	Big Ten AB
11:30-11:45 a.m.	Transition Time/Break <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCEA Silent Auction Bidding Open</li> </ul>	North Lobby

TIME	SESSION OR EVENT	LOCATION
11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.	<b>Learning Sessions / Workshop #2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active Listening Skills – <i>Jonathon Novello</i></li> <li>• Beyond Numbers: How In-Depth Conversations Can Highlight Extension Impact – <i>Dawn Earnesty</i></li> <li>• Beyond Outlook: Teams, OneNote, OneDrive – <i>Randy Dean</i></li> <li>• Cut Your Long Story Short – <i>Becky McKendry</i></li> <li>• Reaching and Working with Racially Diverse Populations – <i>Lizz Duran, Kristina Jimmerson, Veronica Quintino-Aranda</i></li> <li>• Our Journey: Building a Sustainable Tribal Extension System – <i>Emily Proctor</i></li> <li>• Video Creation: Part 2 (Application) – <i>Luke Reese, Gwyn Shelle</i></li> <li>• Wealth Building – <i>Beth Martinez, Jinnifer Ortquist</i></li> </ul>	Big Ten C  Room 104 AB  Lincoln  Room 62 (Ground Level) Room 106  Red Cedar AB  Room 103 AB  Room 105 AB
12:45-1 p.m.	Transition Time/Break <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCEA Silent Auction Bidding Open (Auction closes at 1 p.m.)</li> </ul>	North Lobby
1-3 p.m.	<b>Lunch and Awards Presentations</b> <i>Meritorious Service Awards, Senior Status, Milestone Years of Service</i>	Big Ten AB
3-3:30 p.m.	<b>Adjourn</b> MCEA Silent Auction Checkout, Pick Up Purchased Items	North Lobby

# KELLOGG HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER MAP



- Meeting Rooms
- Banquet Areas
- Eating Areas
- Front Desk
- Elevators
- Men's Room
- Women's Room
- Telephones

# MSU EXTENSION AWARDS PROGRAM



## WE ARE EXTENSION:

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## 2022 FALL EXTENSION CONFERENCE

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# NOTES

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## ABOUT THE AWARDS PROGRAM

Michigan State University (MSU) Extension presents a variety of awards at its Fall Extension Conference each year. The awards honor outstanding MSU Extension staff members, programs, and key partners. The selection committee for the MSU Extension administration awards is made up of Extension administrators who represent institutes, district directors, and the MSU Extension Director's Office. While the winner of the John A. Hannah Award for Program Excellence is presented as part of MSU Extension administration awards, it is chosen by Epsilon Sigma Phi. Also listed in this program are MSU Extension personnel who have received awards throughout the year from the following professional associations:

- Community and Natural Resources Development Association (CNRDA)
- Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP), Alpha Psi Chapter
- Michigan Association of Extension 4-H Youth Staff (MAE4-HYS)
- Michigan Association of Extension Agents (MAEA)
- Michigan Extension Association of Family and Consumer Science (MEAFCS)

## KEY PARTNER AWARDS

### Friends of Royal Oak Township

Friends of Royal Oak Township (FOROT) is a community-based, volunteer-driven, nonprofit organization founded in 2011 to serve the needs of the residents of Royal Oak Township. Royal Oak Township is a community that was established during the Jim Crow era for the specific purpose of keeping housing segregated by race. FOROT was established to provide support and services for a historically underserved population. FOROT has grown and expanded to also serve residents of the communities that surround it. FOROT provides educational programs that focus on health and wellness, healthy food and nutrition, urban agriculture, and cultural awareness.

The FOROT and Michigan State University Extension partnership began in 2013 when the two organizations established Sankofa Gardens, which provides healthy fruits and vegetables to the community. In 2014, the partnership began providing summer nutrition classes at Royal Oak Township Recreation Center and urban agriculture education at other sites in Ferndale. Since 2016, MSU Extension has provided nutrition education at another FOROT site, Ferndale Upper Elementary School. The two have collaborated on health fairs at senior centers, established a men's health nutrition education series, and sponsored an annual cultural awareness program around the events of Juneteenth. FOROT and MSU Extension have positively influenced the physical and mental health of the Royal Oak Township community and surrounding areas since 2013.

The most significant impact FOROT has had on MSU Extension has been the sheer number of people Extension has been able to reach through the partnership. The population of three cities opened up to Extension and allowed it to positively influence those communities. The greatest impact on the community has been a change in the behaviors and nutrition habits of the residents.



## Macomb County Planning and Economic Development Department

The Macomb County Planning and Economic Development (MCPED) Department activities and programs focus on stimulating the local economy while improving the quality of life for all residents with programs in economic and community development, land use and placemaking, water quality, and parks and recreation. A large population and a small county land area create significant land use and planning challenges and opportunities for Macomb County. After attending the Michigan State University Extension Citizen Planner Program (CPP), MCPED staff determined that by providing the basic training to their local communities, they would have the tools and knowledge to better plan their community's future individually and with neighboring communities. It would allow MCPED to then work with these communities to take their efforts to the next level.

The MCPED has been involved with the Citizen Planner Program since its inception 20 years ago. At that time, staff assisted in the pre-planning meetings, which were critical to having a successful launch. Department staff has taught CPP sessions each year the training was held. Furthermore, staff also filled in when necessary to teach sessions for programs in other counties. In 2016, the department obtained additional budgetary funding from the Macomb County Board of Commissioners to offer scholarships to communities to allow planning officials to attend Citizen Planner training at no cost. Since the scholarship has been offered, the average Macomb County CPP attendance has increased by 50% annually. The increased attendance ensures an annual program that results in multi-year attendance by communities and attracts out-of-county participants.

The first direct collaboration between MSU Extension and MCPED began in 1993 with the Spongy Moth Suppression Program. Other collaborations with Extension include working with the Product Center and partnering on the Eco-Friendly Landscaping for Water Quality program as well as Tree Sale Day. The MCPED promotes CPP and all Extension programs through all of their media outlets. These significant contributions make MCPED a worthy recipient of the Key Partner Award.

## Michigan Blueberry Commission

The Michigan Blueberry Commission (MBC) works collaboratively with Michigan State University as a valued partner to further improve research and extension programs related to the blueberry industry while also looking out for the interests of blueberry growers. The MBC was established in May 2017 after blueberry growers voted to institute a checkoff (a self-imposed tax) to improve research and education to support their success. Since its formation, the MBC has used the checkoff funds to further invest in the blueberry industry. This has included applying for grants to establish new blueberry plantings at MSU facilities to enhance blueberry research as well as applying for and receiving a Specialty Crop Block Grant regarding pest management in which MSU scientists were the beneficiary. The commission also developed and has implemented an annual Request for Proposals for blueberry research projects.

The MBC works collaboratively with MSU Extension to set the blueberry educational program for the annual Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable and Farm Market EXPO. This allows MSU Extension the opportunity to work with the MBC in identifying pressing issues within the blueberry industry and to identify experts to address these topics. The MBC actively promotes MSU Extension programs related to the blueberry industry with blueberry growers. This allows MSU Extension to reach a broader blueberry grower audience than it could do on its own, which helps get cutting-edge information to growers in forms they can readily use within their business.

The MBC Board of Directors made a commitment to support 40% of the salary, benefits, and operation for an Extension educator for three years whose primary assignment is working with blueberry growers. This position was filled in November 2021. MBC is a strong supporter of MSU Extension and is worthy of the Key Partner Award.

## Michigan State Horticultural Society

The Michigan State Horticultural Society (MSHS) was established in 1870 to support the Michigan fruit industry. The MSHS has been a valued partner to Michigan State University as they work to better serve the fruit industry. Over the decades, the MSHS scholarship program has assisted many people in obtaining college degrees. Through its grants program, the MSHS has provided support to countless MSU and MSU Extension staff working in the fruit industry as well as funded programs and research.

The MSHS co-hosts the Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable and Farm Market EXPO with the Michigan Vegetable Council. The EXPO partners with MSU Extension to develop educational sessions for the event, which feature MSU and MSU Extension staff as well as other experts from across the country. This partnership allows MSU Extension to connect with an international audience, which extends programmatic reach. The MSHS regularly provides the priorities of their members to MSU Extension as Extension and AgBioResearch complete needs assessments to determine educational and research priorities.

The MSHS is always ready to work with MSU Extension in developing present and future direction as evidenced in their participation in a 2021 strategic direction planning effort, which included input from stakeholders.

Members of the MSHS felt that two MSU Extension fruit educator positions, which might have been lost due to financial uncertainty and retirements, were important to the fruit industry. The MSHS worked with the Michigan Blueberry Commission and MSU Extension to move forward with a blueberry/small fruit position in southwestern Michigan. The MSHS developed a six-member coalition to provide partial funding over the next four years for a southeastern Michigan fruit educator position. The coalition includes Michigan Apple Committee, Michigan Cider Guild, Michigan Agritourism, Michigan Tree Fruit Commission, and the Michigan Farmers Market Association along with MSHS. The MSHS has had lasting impact on the quality of the research, outreach, and educational missions of MSU Extension.

## West Central Michigan Horticultural Research Inc

In 2018, a group of Michigan fruit farmers had an idea to develop a research center in west central Michigan that would work on challenges unique to their region. From those initial ideas, West Central Michigan Horticultural Research Inc. (WCMHR) was formed and over \$1.5 million was collected to purchase 68 acres of prime fruit production land and build facilities that were completed in summer 2021. The foundation is now leasing the West Central Michigan Research and Extension Center to Michigan State University as a part of the network of research and extension centers across Michigan. From the onset, MSU and MSU Extension have worked with the Board of Directors to advise them on how to move forward with this endeavor. A committee of MSU faculty and MSU Extension specialists and educators developed a process to strategically determine the best use of the property for future research and extension projects. The plan included determining what crops should be planted and where. This committee also provided input on facility and equipment needs for the new research center including ideas on fencing, water, and development of a station laboratory. WCMHR included a conference room that could be used for extension and community events as well as office space where extension staff and other researchers could work on projects.

WCMHR worked with Project GREEN to put together partial support to fund an MSU Extension tree fruit educator for west central Michigan. Due to the relationship with WCMHR, the educator was able to receive funding from Project GREEN in 2022 to initiate an extension project at the center.

The establishment of the center was a major project requiring a commitment from WCMHR, AgBioResearch, and MSU Extension. The speed in which this new center was established is an indication of the strong commitment of WCMHR to Michigan agriculture and the strong partnership that it has developed with MSU.

## OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO MSU EXTENSION AWARD

### Paul Gross

As a Michigan State University Extension field crops educator, Paul Gross is an experienced leader whose openness and genuine concern have made him an invaluable advocate for farmers in Isabella County as well as throughout the state. Over the course of his 31-year career, he has pioneered, guided, and participated in countless initiatives. Annually, he provides education for pesticide applicators and assists with north central Michigan updates for commodities. He identifies field test plots and helps monitor and report data for continued research. He plays an instrumental role in pest management.

He is a leader in the North Central Region Water Network where he and colleagues have established the Soil Health Nexus, providing programming and resources across a 12-state region. Under his direct leadership, the Soil Health Nexus developed the Soil Health Matrix, designed to equip producers with knowledge of soil health and management so they can make informed decisions on their operational needs.

A servant leader, he has fostered both new and life-long partnerships. His relationships with partners have laid a foundation for others to make connections and build programming opportunities. He has embraced technology supporting the engagement of new participants as well as maintaining traditional audiences.

In 2019, with the expansion of the Farm Stress program at MSU Extension, he was instrumental in the programming efforts and network development of the new Farm Stress educator. Together, they developed unique and creative outreach efforts to establish a sound footing for the advancement of the farm stress initiative and relationships with key stakeholders.

Paul provides a wealth of resources, knowledge, and companionship. His mentorship approach and experience providing research and education through multiple platforms exemplifies what it means to be a true leader. His open-door method helps him to develop trusting relationships with those he serves. He makes himself reliably available and willing to assist those in need of support. Paul Gross is the epitome of what an Extension educator should be: dedicated, knowledgeable, honest, selfless, and willing to learn new things.

## MCEA JOHN A. HANNAH AWARD FOR PROGRAM EXCELLENCE

### Citizen Planner Program

**Tyler Augst, Wayne Beyea, Terry Gibb, Harmony Gmazel, Kara Kelly, Brad Neumann, Mary Reilly**

The Citizen Planner Program (CPP) has been providing high-quality education to land-use decision makers throughout Michigan for over 20 years, reaching over 5,000 individuals. Through instruction and hands-on practice with scenarios based in the fictional community of Spartyville, participants grow their knowledge, skills, and confidence to fulfil their community roles.

A survey of local officials conducted by Michigan State University Extension in 1995 revealed that many lacked the background and basic understanding of planning and zoning to make effective land use decisions. This led to the creation of a CPP pilot in 2000. In 2006, Citizen Planner Online (CPO) launched as a self-paced alternative to the traditional county-based classroom. In 2017, a new version of CPO was launched in MSU's D2L. Educators were also using distance learning technology to connect learners, and the switch to Citizen Planner via Zoom during the COVID-19 pandemic made for a near seamless transition. Through all of this, the CPP has been at the forefront of new approaches in reaching land-use decision makers.

The Michigan CPP has been adapted to a national audience in the form of two different national offerings: *American Citizen Planner* offered by the Extension Foundation and *Planning Commissioner Training* offered by Planetizen Courses.

In addition to the awardees, the following MSU Extension staff have played significant roles in the development of the program in recent years: Lindsey Gardner, Julie Pioch, Richard Wooten, and other MSU faculty and educators who support the program as instructors. The CPP's success is also the result of significant contributions from many retired and former MSU Extension staff, including Rod Cortright, Janean Danca, Chris Grobbel, Patricia Norris, Sarah O'Donnell, Glenn Pape, David Rowley, Kurt Schindler, Dean Solomon, Gary Taylor, Wendy Walker, Jim Wiesing, Crystal Wilson, Mark Wyckoff, and many former county Extension directors that helped coordinate and host programs.

The Citizen Planner Program is a superior program most worthy of the John A. Hannah Award for Program Excellence.

## MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS

### Community Nutrition Instructor

#### Cecilia Jaime Gutierrez

Cecilia Jaime Gutierrez is a Michigan State University Extension community nutrition instructor serving Oakland County for the past six years.

She won an award of recognition from the Consulate of Mexico in Detroit for providing nutrition activities that promote healthy eating to the Hispanic community during the pandemic. Cecilia taught basic nutrition and physical activity in Spanish in a synchronous environment using Facebook Live. Her sessions, each more than an hour long, were seen all over Michigan and in Mexico. She helped participants reduce feelings of isolation, keeping them connected during a stressful time while explaining the benefits of eating healthy, balanced meals and getting exercise. She reached over 5,500 people from February through October 2021.

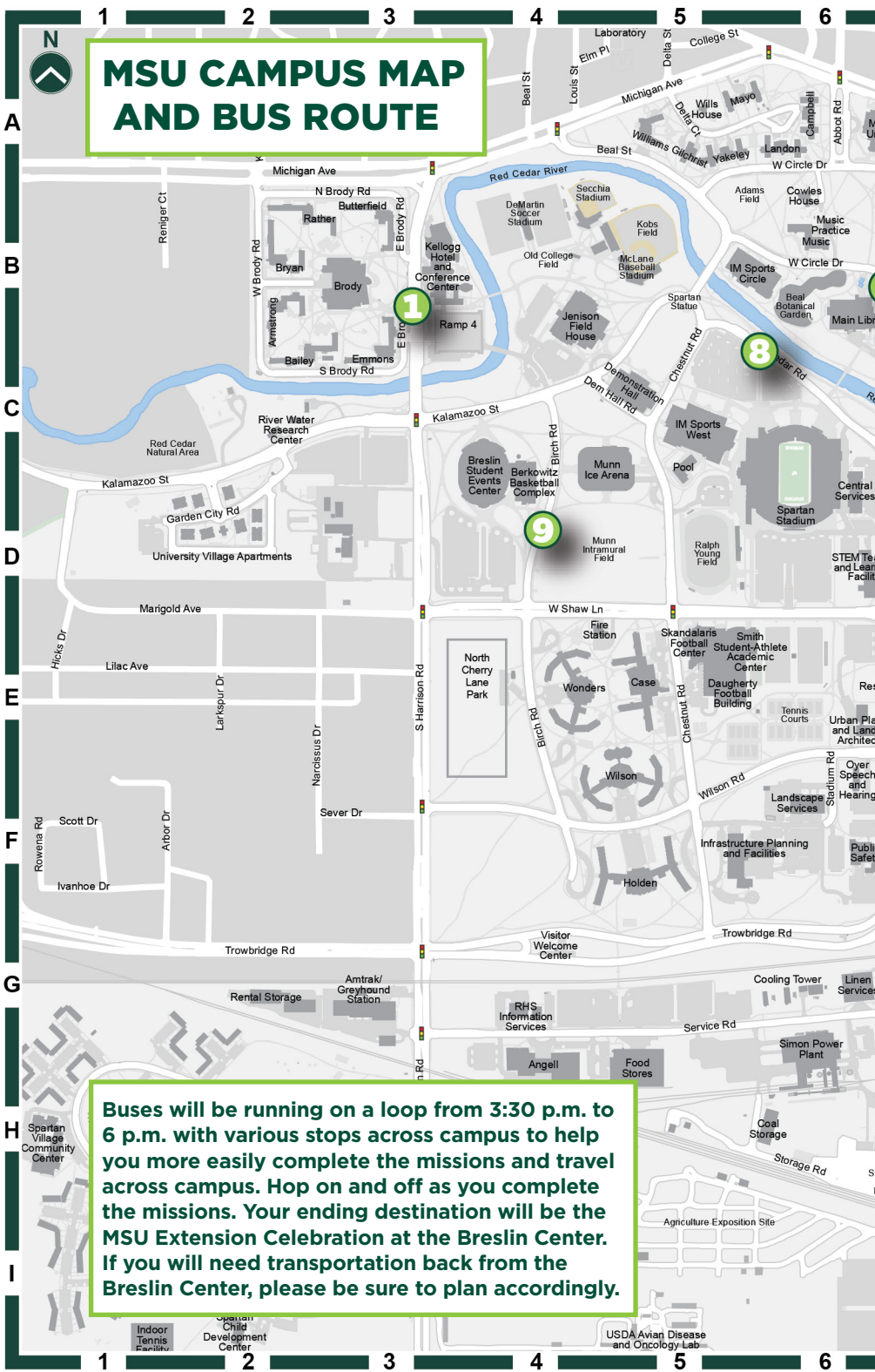
Cecilia formed a partnership with La Casa Guadalupana, a nonprofit committed to providing family literacy and educational training opportunities in Detroit. She provided a comprehensible nutrition series for the participants of La Casa Guadalupana.

She also co-facilitated Cooking Matters for Teens to teach youth at Pontiac High School about nutrition and cooking.

She arranged for a summer-camp group to visit the Oakland County animal shelter. The young people took a tour, petted and fed the cats, and offered treats to the dogs. The trip was so enjoyed by the teens that some may sign up as volunteers to help at the animal shelter and make toys and treats for the animals.

Cecilia Jaime Gutierrez provides a welcoming learning environment. She works with youth, families, communities, schools, and partner organizations as she displays a passion for teaching, cooking, and exercise. An excellent bridge between MSU Extension and the Spanish-speaking populations of southeastern Michigan, she is deserving of the Meritorious Service award.

# MSU CAMPUS MAP AND BUS ROUTE



**Buses will be running on a loop from 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. with various stops across campus to help you more easily complete the missions and travel across campus. Hop on and off as you complete the missions. Your ending destination will be the MSU Extension Celebration at the Breslin Center. If you will need transportation back from the Breslin Center, please be sure to plan accordingly.**





## 4-H Program Coordinator

### Katelyn Golembiewski

Katelyn Golembiewski has been the Michigan State University Extension Macomb County 4-H program coordinator for the past five years and serves as the statewide military partnership liaison. Katelyn has a background in natural resources and uses that education to teach environmental education to youth while preparing them for the future using modern technology.

She serves as a staff advisor to the Macomb County Youth Council (YC), managing multiple fundraisers, educational workshops, and more. She has brought stability to the group and encouraged participation. Through her guidance, the group has grown. She rebuilt the county awards program, encouraging the YC to create a subcommittee to focus on awards and recognition and helped recruit participants. They revised the awards applications and created a website to house applications, rubrics, and application submission. With promotion and a new application and submission process, they were successful in receiving 16 award applications and nominations. They held an in-person awards and recognition event.

Katelyn has proven resourceful in securing additional funds to supplement her programming efforts. She received grant funding from the Michigan 4-H Foundation for two Wizarding World of 4-H SPIN (special interest) clubs and the Michigan 4-H Month of the Military Child GooseChase. She secured an On-Target archery grant and a Farm Bureau Horticulture Recognition award for Detroit Arsenal. She also applied for and received funding through the 4-H Military Partnership Project. Additionally, Katelyn agreed to be the point person in Macomb County for two grant opportunities: 4-H Future Squad and the Apple Initiative.

She served as the Michigan Association of Extension 4-H Youth Staff secretary, created and co-presented an Ed Talk for the Children and Youth Institute Spring Conference, co-supervised an AmeriCorps member, gave a radio interview regarding 4-H, and participated in the statewide summer pen pal program.

A great role model and leader, Katelyn Golembiewski provides residents with a youth development program to be proud of.

## Administrative Leadership

### Marilyn Thelen

While serving as a Michigan State University senior Extension specialist and associate director of the Agriculture and Agribusiness Institute, Marilyn Thelen has eagerly taken on multiple important topics.

She created a coverage tool to identify which educators were assigned to which county that provided tremendous support for county administration and the Director's Office. The tool also demonstrated that the MSU Extension website was not functioning as needed. This spurred the web team and communication staff to improve the website so that people could complete reliable searches and determine coverage on a topic area for a particular county, regardless of institute.

Marilyn has changed the development of Plans of Work/Action Plans to emphasize that programming work should be built around the development of educational initiatives. She developed STEP II workshops to discuss STEP II and the expectation of the organization. Her contribution in this area helped early career staff become more confident in their roles and be better prepared for the STEP II promotion process.

She has worked with partners to improve conservation and sustainable farming practices, leading the institute to be a part of collaborative state projects, including the Soil Testing to Reduce Agriculture Nutrient Delivery project with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) and Michigan Farm Bureau. She was the initial lead on the collaborative Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program with MDARD. This work with stakeholders regarding conservation practices and the subsequent grant work that resulted has improved Extension's reputation with partners and given staff new opportunities to lead in this critical topic area for Michigan.

Marilyn Thelen's contributions are important to the current and future success of MSU Extension. Her positive demeanor, insightful perspectives, and continual willingness to assist others and the organization epitomizes what the Meritorious Service Award is designed to recognize.

## Extension Educator

### Bruce MacKellar

Bruce MacKellar is a Michigan State University Extension field crop educator adept at identifying unmet educational needs. He responded to an increased potential for ear molds and lack of accompanying related education by planning, promoting, conducting, and evaluating four statewide grain storage and fumigation programs, reaching 130 participants.

He played several key roles in the Michiana Irrigated Corn and Soybean Production Conference, which created and strengthened new partnerships with Purdue University, the Indiana Soybean Alliance, and the Indiana Corn Marketing Council. He built strong alliances with local Michigan Farm Bureau boards.

His connections with producers, agribusinesses, Extension specialists, and governmental agencies enable him to identify and establish new educational opportunities. His work led to the creation of one of the most important sudden death syndrome and soybean cyst nematode research sites in the country.

Bruce has applied his strong computer programming skills to updating and significantly improving the MSU irrigation scheduling program.

He has consistently been out front of major new pests and pest management challenges. He works closely with Extension specialists to identify research sites and cooperators, conduct field days, and develop educational materials. Bruce's weekly in-season pest scouting trips and regional reports have been especially beneficial because they alert producers and agronomists about potential pest problems coming to their areas. He has led Ag Action Day, an important regional program since 2014 and was instrumental in the creation of the MI Ag Ideas to Grow With conference.

Bruce frequently enhanced the standard evaluations distributed at the annual regional crop and pest management updates by adding key questions about local pest management problems.

Held in high regard by farmers and the agencies that serve them, Bruce MacKellar is the epitome of what an Extension educator should be.

## Support Staff Off-Campus

### Joan Taylor

Joan Taylor is the office manager in the Michigan State University Extension Gratiot County office. During the leave time of the 4-H program coordinator and the position vacancy that followed, she voluntarily took on additional tasks that kept the 4-H program running smoothly. This initially occurred during the Gratiot County Youth Fair in 2021. She completed fair responsibilities, tied up loose ends, and then continued to keep the program going through the rest of the year. She coordinated volunteers, attended meetings, pulled together all the required reports, and much more.

Joan took on the extra duties of attending Fair Board meetings, reporting back to 4-H and staff. Through this connection, 4-H could work through challenges that came about due to COVID-19. She also fostered partnerships with Project RED (Rural Education Days), the county beekeepers' group, and local businesses. Through her work with Project RED, MSU Extension had a strong presence with three booths to showcase the work being done in Gratiot County. She also engaged with the Department of Health and Human Services to participate in the health and wellness event for the community.

She has continued to provide the monthly newsletter to 4-H families and picked up the task of writing, sending, and monitoring it. She has changed the parameters of the email system so that she can see how many have opened the newsletter. Keeping track of this has helped her to see if follow-up emails were necessary. She also took over the responsibility of having a 4-H Youth of the Week interview broadcasted on the radio for weeks leading up to the fair.

Joan Taylor has kept 4-H relevant and front and center in the community, kept 4-H volunteers connected to the program, re-engaged 4-H in the community, and kept a positive atmosphere throughout.

## Support Staff On-Campus

### Patricia Adams

Patricia (“Patty”) Adams, Michigan State University Extension editor, is a member of the MSU Extension Educational Materials Team. Her dedication and commitment to making quality products can be seen throughout her work. She ensures MSU Extension educational materials are produced in a professional, consistent, timely, and thorough manner. The products she has contributed to can be seen internationally, nationally, and locally and are used by professionals, educators, community partners, caregivers, and families.

She has edited seven curriculum projects and 31 miscellaneous projects in the past year. One that stands out is *Get Ready, Get Set, Get Going: A Guide to Money Management*, a financial literacy education program with 12 lessons and an accompanying facilitator guide. In 2020–21, she edited *Innovations in Agricultural Extension*, a 254-page book with 20 chapters and nearly 50 authors from MSU Extension and from six countries on three continents. The first language of several of the authors was not English, making the editing and author review process challenging.

Patty contributed to the development of the MSU Extension Educational Materials Team’s “Preparing to Submit Your Educational Project to an Editor” online course that guides authors through the process of writing MSU Extension educational materials.

She strives to make the editing process both helpful and educational for the authors she works with. This includes working with the team to create support materials. By her attention to copyright and permissions issues, she helps keep MSU Extension publications high quality, professional, and legal, and she protects the reputations of MSU Extension, the university, and the authors she works with. Patty Adams’ detailed and thoughtful work helps MSU Extension staff to actualize the mission of MSU Extension to serve, educate, and support Michigan residents.

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION IMPACT AWARD

### Florencia Colella

Florencia Colella, Michigan State University Extension farm business management educator, has been a stellar partner in the development and implementation of programs to support farmers of color. Her work on the online course *Farm Business Recordkeeping for the Global Majority* to help farmers of color learn how to enhance cash flow, profitability, and financial performance highlighted her leadership on reaching underrepresented audiences. Her efforts to develop an online D2L curriculum *Farm Money Matters* while facilitating a cohort and providing one-on-one business support for participants in the recordkeeping course showed that she is committed to an effective learning model.

She steps up to support farmers of color whenever the opportunity arises. She ensures that MSU Extension programs and materials are available to Spanish-speaking audiences, listens intently to understand audience needs, and partners with internal MSU organizations including the MSU Center for Regional Food Systems (CRFS) as well as with external organizations such as the Michigan Food and Farming Systems.

With the MSU CRFS team, she twice helped to secure U.S. Department of Agriculture Risk Management Agency cooperative agreement funding. This funding has allowed 70 farmers of color to access 12 months of hybrid learning with more than 85 farmers on the waitlist.

She joined the Loan Preparation for New and Beginning Farmers team to offer a series of four sessions to help prepare farmers for financing. She also updated the online and printed resource *Farm Records Book for Management*. She has developed multiple resources for Spanish-speaking farmers. These resources provide opportunities for farmers of color to operate successful and sustainable farm businesses thereby changing the narrative of farming in Michigan.

Florencia Colella has influenced efforts to improve racial equity in food and farm business programs by helping develop inclusive programs addressing financial management in business, lifting up producers to help their businesses to launch and grow.

## INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY AWARD

### Ehsan Ghane

Ehsan Ghane, Michigan State University assistant professor and Extension specialist, has used innovative technologies in educational programming that has resulted in a positive response by stakeholders. He has won a major national award for his innovative technologies in 2022.

He has created eight drainage design tools to help stakeholders make informed drainage design decisions. The tools, some of which have only been online since May 2021, have attracted nearly 900 unique users from May 2021 to April 2022. His counterparts in other Midwest states now use some of these tools in their drainage design workshops. His Drain Spacing decision-support tool was important in securing external funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Ehsan has developed six educational videos to teach conservation drainage practices and drainage design concepts. The videos have attracted more than 700 views on MSU Extension's Field Crops channel on YouTube.

He has developed the Drainage Extension website that provides education and practical solutions to drainage issues. The first of its kind in Michigan, the website hosts his other innovative technologies including tools, videos, and Extension bulletins. People from more than 20 countries have visited the website.

Ehsan has developed productive partnerships with key drainage-related organizations to advance drainage research and education. He presented his decision-support tools, drainage educational videos, and Extension bulletins at the Michigan Land Improvement Contractors Association (MLICA) annual conventions. This helped him develop a strong partnership with MLICA, the key organization for drainage contractors. He also presented his innovative technologies at the Conservation Drainage Network annual meeting to build partnership with the drainage industry.

He has been responsive in addressing clients' needs when receiving phone calls and emails about drainage issues as well as answering questions through MSU's Ask an Expert.

The Innovative Technology Award is an appropriate and deserving recognition for Ehsan Ghane's accomplishments.



## INSTITUTE TEAM AWARDS

### **CYI LGBTQIA+ Advocacy Team**

**Darren Bagley, Julie Darnton, Anna EldenBrady, Melissa Elischer, Stacie Gath, Lisa Kelley, Jackie Martin, Julia Moll, Aaron Myers, Kristy Oosterhouse, Tonya Pell, Rachel Puckett, Kristi Schreiber, Carrie Shrier, Brian Wibby, Diane Wisnewski**

The Children and Youth Institute (CYI) LGBTQIA+ Advocacy team was formed in spring 2020 after a CYI Listening Session around LGBTQIA+ youth topics.

The team has worked on many professional development programs in the last year. With the help of Dionardo Pizaña, Michigan State University Extension specialist, they secured Owen Bondono, the Michigan Teacher of the Year, who led two trainings: one for CYI staff and another for 4-H volunteers. They also provided leadership and assistance with learning opportunities for Pride Month.

The team has worked on increasing MSU Extension's visible support for the LGBTQIA+ community. By providing trainings around pronouns, encouraging colleagues to complete the Quest training from the MSU Gender and Sexuality Campus Center, and promoting the new MSU Extension inclusion guide, they have helped the organization nurture an environment that respects and values differences.

The team worked with colleagues on campus at MSU to provide trainings and dialogues. The June 2021 Teach-In and November 2021 Teach-In with MSU Extension leadership allowed collaborations with colleagues from various departments within MSU. The team has also met with organizations from around Michigan and other Extension programs around the country to discuss inclusion efforts. The team has representation on various National 4-H committees devoted to this work and stays informed of current research.

They created the Helping With Rainbow Hands 4-H Club (a new statewide 4-H program meant for LGBTQIA+ youth and their allies), which has been meeting for over a year with youth from across Michigan. It is working to form county or regional 4-H clubs. A club mixer at 4-H Exploration Days in 2022 was attended by more than 20 youth.

The CYI LGBTQIA+ Advocacy Team has worked to help CYI and MSU Extension live into the value of inclusion while also creating a more affirming space for LGBTQIA+ youth, volunteers, and staff.

## Michigan 4-H Animal Science Skillathon

**Geep Charlebois, Caitlin Clover, Angela Cook, Ashley Dennis, Elizabeth Duran, Michelle Eagling, Melissa Elischer, Kristin Havelka, Emily Kotz, Leah LaVanway, Jennifer Myers, Allison Olson, Liana Pepin, David Radloff, Insa Raymond, Jacob Stieg, Glenda Weiss**

Made up of Children and Youth Institute (CYI) staff from all over Michigan, the Michigan 4-H Animal Science Skillathon team put together an annual competition for youth and adults that tests knowledge of market livestock, animal science, and management practices. Each team member brought their own expertise to create the test questions, market the program, and host the virtual event.

The team created a unique Michigan version of the skillathon. While other state 4-H programs have similar offerings, the Michigan 4-H Animal Science Skillathon is the most comprehensive test of livestock and traditional farm animals in the nation. The virtual format offers accessibility to a wider audience and the challenge is open to everyone in Michigan.

A group of Wayne County student contestants for whom English is a second language requested to have their tests translated into their primary languages (Bengali and Arabic). The team scheduled a qualifier session during the school day so the students could participate in their classroom with their teachers and paraprofessionals. Working with Michigan State University Extension Wayne County 4-H program coordinator Lisa Kelley and the students' teacher Holly Glomski, the team used translation software to conduct the qualifier test.

CYI staff involved in this program learned new software in the process. The Quilgo app was used to divide the questions by difficulty. Tests were administered via an individualized link. Scoring was immediate and reduced staff time for tabulating results. The experience with this new system opens up the possibility to additional programs or educational opportunities around the state.

This program brought together CYI staff from all parts of the state, creating a new network of content and technology experts who could rely on each other for support. Additionally, staff learned new software to assist with translation materials to increase our reach to youth and adults around Michigan.

## MSU DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC STAFF AWARDS

The following MSU Extension staff members have been awarded the MSU Distinguished Academic Staff Award during the calendar year noted. We thank each of them for their significant contributions to MSU Extension.

**2022 – Rebecca Finneran, Jodi Schulz**

## SENIOR STATUS

The following MSU Extension staff member has earned senior status during this calendar year. Congratulations and thank you for your significant contributions to MSU Extension.

**Joshua Cohen**

## MILESTONE YEARS OF SERVICE WITH MSU

The MSU Extension staff members listed in this section have marked employment milestones during this calendar year. We thank them all for their years of dedicated service to the organization.

### 40 or More Years of Service

**Roger Betz**

### 35 or More Years of Service

**Rebecca Finneran, Lyndon Kelley, Carol Klein, Christi Sovis**

### 30 Years of Service

**Tracie Abram, William Shane, Kathryn Walicki**

### 25 Years of Service

**Debra Barrett, Jennifer Berkey, Trina Bierschbach, Susan Burkle, Phillip Durst, Coral Rowley, Matthew Shane, Hope Wolcott**

## 20 Years of Service

**Patricia Adams, Michael Monfils, Bethany Prykucki, Jodi Schulz, Yesenia Velasco, Richard Wooten**

## 15 Years of Service

**Lori Eccles, Tamara Harris, Sara Keinath, Rebecca Krans, Jessica Nakfour, Daniel O'Keefe, Jeannine Schwehofer, Gwyn Shelle, J. Robert Sirrine, Beth Stuever, Loris Trailer, Thomas Wenzel**

## 10 Years of Service

**James DeDecker, Constance Diamond, Elizabeth Duran, Shelley Frazier, Imelda Galdamez, Sandria Graham, Melissa Haug, Peter Havlatka, Charles Jackson Jr., Christian Kleinjans, Rachel Kramer, Dian Liepe, Paula Maloney, Sulaiman Mansour, Wendy Marek, Debra Morgan, Mary Morris-Donaldson, C. Andrew Northrop, Michelle Smith, Debra Studebaker, Garrett Ziegler**

## 5 Years of Service

**Jessica Ackerson, Courtney Aldrich, Julie Arter, Paola Bacigalupo Sanguesa, Anne Baker, Tyler Bassett, Abigail Cudney, Rebecca DeYoung, Patricia Errer, Harmony Fierke-Gmazel, Joshua Gunn, Kaylee Joyce, Jeremy Jubenville, Kathy Kregger, Jonathan LaPorte, Martin J. Mangual, Danielle Melching, Margaret Merchberger, Holly Mueller, Anne O'Rourke-Bean, Tonya Pell, Laurie Platte Breza, Rachel Puckett, Laura Quist, Jacqueline Rabine, Kelly Stelter, David Thompson, Clay Wilton, Diane Wisnewski**

## MSU EXTENSION ASSOCIATION AWARDS

MSU Extension's professional associations have presented an array of annual awards to their members this year. We're pleased to recognize and congratulate these award winners again in this program.

### COMMUNITY AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

#### Partnership Award

##### Katie Ockert

Katie Ockert, Michigan State University Extension's statewide chronic wasting disease (CWD) educator, looks to create, deliver, and evaluate local and statewide communication strategies and innovative educational programs that meet current and projected outreach needs related to white-tailed deer management and CWD. She works with key partners and audiences to identify communication strategies to increase awareness of CWD, increase hunter confidence in the ability of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to make informed decisions and take necessary management actions regarding CWD, and increase key stakeholders' acceptance associated with CWD management options and outcomes.

She is the recipient of this year's Community and Natural Resources Development Association Community Partnership Award for her role in facilitating several partners to engage diverse stakeholders in the hunting community. Partners included representatives of MSU Extension, MSU Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Michigan DNR, and MSU's Office for Public Engagement and Scholarship. Together, the partners and stakeholders participated in a charrette designed to engage the hunting community in the creation and implementation of an education and outreach plan to meet current and projected needs related to white-tailed deer management and CWD.

Through this effort, Katie Ockert continues to effectively bring together the diverse members of the hunting community to refine and deliver consistent and audience-appropriate messaging around CWD in Michigan's white-tailed deer.

## Innovative Program Award

### Tyler Augst

Tyler Augst is a government and community vitality educator for southwestern Michigan with Michigan State University Extension and Michigan Sea Grant, focusing on land use, zoning, planning, and community development.

He is the recipient of this year's Community and Natural Resources Development Association Innovative Program award for his collaborative work in creating and delivering an email-based learning course on Great Lakes Coastal Planning and Zoning. The course was developed in response to research showing gaps in planning and zoning for the Great Lakes shoreline at the local level and land-use decision makers' preference for on-demand, self-paced learning opportunities. The course reshaped the traditional delivery model for self-paced courses by using Qualtrics for registration and automated delivery of lessons directly to the participant's email inbox. The automation created a consistent experience week to week for the participants and allowed Extension professionals to have an asynchronous learning option, without the continual upkeep and monitoring of a D2L course.

The course content was created using planning and zoning expertise from the MSU Extension Land Use Team, Great Lakes expertise of Michigan and other Great Lakes Sea Grant programs, and technological expertise of MSU Extension's instructional technology specialists and the Michigan Sea Grant Communications Team. His role in facilitating the creation of the course resulted in a new working relationship with the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI) with Tyler now serving on the advisory team for the GLSLCI's Resilient Coastal Project Initiative in western Michigan.



## EPSILON SIGMA PHI AWARDS

### Mid-Career Service

#### Christine Heverly

Christine Heverly is a Michigan State University Extension educator well known and respected by her peers, not only in Michigan, but also nationally. Detail-oriented, she drives projects forward. She problem-solves in creative ways when challenges are presented and is often called on to provide leadership to important endeavors.

Her early accomplishments were in the area of 4-H peer mentoring. Based on her success in youth mentoring, she was hired as a 4-H program coordinator where she continued to contribute to peer mentoring, but also managed the MSU Extension Eaton County 4-H program. Her first educator assignment involved supervising 4-H program coordinators and serving on the Children and Youth Institute Capacity Building work team. Her passion to empower staff and volunteers with additional knowledge and skills has led to her most significant professional and programmatic accomplishments.

She became certified to teach SAFE (Screening Applicants for Effectiveness): Preventing Child Molestation in Volunteer Programs and contributes significantly as part of the Volunteer Excellence Support Team as a coach and resource for 4-H program coordinators, providing one-on-one support in all areas of volunteer management. Her most significant accomplishments include publishing *Ready to Go: Volunteer Training Toolkit*, providing leadership to the 4-H STEAM Corps grant, designing volunteer learning modules for MSU Extension, and being a sought-after presenter for her expertise in volunteer management.

## MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF EXTENSION 4-H YOUTH STAFF AWARDS

### **Distinguished Service Award (State and National)**

#### **Jodi Schulz**

Jodi Schulz has spent the past 20 years changing lives in Bay County and throughout Michigan. As a Michigan State University senior Extension educator, she has focused on youth development and volunteer management where she has excelled in program development and delivery, curriculum design, innovative teaching, fiscal support, and grantsmanship. Her ability to collaborate with colleagues and external partners to design and implement programs is a hallmark of her career. Most recently, she is honored to serve the organization as interim associate director for the Children and Youth Institute and interim associate state 4-H leader.

### **Distinguished Service Award (State and National)**

#### **Christine Heverly**

As a Michigan State University Extension educator, Christine Heverly always strives to achieve the 4-H motto, "To make the best better." She incorporates this motto into all aspects of her role working with volunteers, staff, and youth. She started with MSU Extension in May 2010 as a 4-H program instructor with the Clinton County 4-H program. She has held a variety of roles: 4-H program coordinator, 4-H supervisor, and children and youth educator where she has been part of Capacity Building and Career Exploration Workforce Preparation Work teams. She is a member of the Volunteer Excellence Support Team, working to support all staff in MSU Extension.



## **Meritorious Service Award (State and National)**

### **Roxanne Turner**

Roxanne Turner started her career with Michigan State University Extension in 2001 and has served in many roles across 4-H. She was a county 4-H agent; holds a state role on the Leadership, Civic and Cultural Engagement Team; serves as a supervising educator as well as a 4-H volunteer. She has spearheaded programs such as the Youth Leadership Institute, statewide communications contest, and youth facilitator training for the Capitol Experience program. She grew up in 4-H as a third-generation member and is most passionate about ensuring youth have a place at the decision-making table and that their voices are heard. She exemplifies leadership as she works with volunteers, staff, and youth to better serve their clubs, communities, country, and world.

## **4-H Innovator**

### **Aaron Myers**

## **Michigan Achievement**

### **Sheryl Moll**

## **MAE4-HYS Team Effort**

### **Veronica Bolhuis, Anne Kretschmann, Laura Quist, Alexa Warwick, and Seth Martin for 4-H Wild Spartans**

## **Michigan Citizenship in Youth Development**

### **Elizabeth Wiener**

## **Michigan Colleagues**

### **Alexa Warwick**

## **Michigan Communicator: Educational Package**

### **Janis Brinn, Insa Raymond**

## **Michigan Communicator: Educational Piece**

### **Lisa Bottomley, Kristin Havelka, Nicole Hersch, Christine Heverly, Jackie Martin, Dorothy Munn, Michelle Neff, Kristy Oosterhouse, Alan Pilkenton, Laurie Platte Breza, Laurie Rivetto, Jodi Schulz, Jennifer Weichel**

## **Michigan Communicator: Promotional Piece**

### **Kristy Oosterhouse**

**Michigan Communicator: Video Program**

**Janis Brinn**

**Michigan Distinguished Service**

**Christine Heverly, Jean Kreiner, Jodi Schulz**

**Michigan Excellence in Global Programming**

**Janis Brinn**

**Michigan Partnership**

**Portland Federal Credit Union**

**Michigan Partnership**

**Sandhya Shanker**

**Michigan Partnership**

**Sheriff Mike Bitnar**

**Michigan Peer Professional Development**

**Anna EldenBrady, Melissa Elischer, Lance Fowler, Tonya Pell, Rachel Puckett**

**Michigan Programming Expertise: Animal Science**

**Jill Connin, Kaelie Fessler, Margaret Merchberger, Elliot Nelson**

**Michigan Programming Expertise: Communication and Expressive Arts**

**Elizabeth Wiener**

**Michigan Programming Expertise: Healthy Living**

**Margaret Merchberger**

**Michigan Programming Expertise: Natural Resources/  
Environmental Education**

**Nicole Hersch**

**Michigan Programming Expertise: STEM**

**Janis Brinn**

**Michigan Programming Expertise: Urban 4-H  
Programming**

**Lisa Kelley**

## National 25 Years of Service

**Janis Brinn, Janelle Stewart**

## National Achievement in Service

**Sheryl Moll**

# MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF EXTENSION AGENTS AWARDS

## National Achievement Award (NACAA)

**Heidi Lindberg**

Heidi Lindberg, Michigan State University Extension greenhouse and nursery educator, based in West Olive, Michigan, has been awarded the Achievement Award from the National Association of County Agriculture Agents, which recognizes excellence in the field of professional Extension for members with less than 10 years of service.

In her eight years of service to MSU Extension, she has provided leadership and direction of outreach to the greenhouse and ornamental nursery industry. Specific areas of outreach include introductory online courses on greenhouse production, lighting for efficient production of greenhouse crops, energy conservation, and biological control of greenhouse crops. She has been active in her state chapter, the Michigan Association of Extension Agents, where she currently serves as president.

She also represents the university with numerous commodity associations including the Western Michigan Greenhouse Association, Michigan Greenhouse Growers Council, Michigan Plant Growers Co-Op, and the Michigan Christmas Tree Association. She is an exemplary Extension educator, delivering innovative and engaging learning opportunities for clients. She is a diligent, trusted, and valued colleague, serving as an able leader and supportive team player in many important efforts serving Michigan citizens.

## **National Distinguished Service Award (NACAA)**

### **Christina Curell**

Christina Curell, Michigan State University Extension educator, received the prestigious Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. The award is presented to members who have served at least 10 years, have conducted outstanding programs, and are held in high esteem by their fellow workers.

Throughout her career at MSU Extension, she has held many roles focusing on the environment and water quality. Currently, she is a statewide cover crops and soil health educator serving all agricultural commodities. Her passion for helping farmers and her fellow colleagues improve their work lives has directed her to be a leader in the Soil Health Nexus, a multi-state university-led team dedicated to increasing access to research-based soil health knowledge, extension, and resources.

In addition to her outstanding programmatic efforts, she has held leadership roles in the Michigan Association of County Agricultural Agents including committee chair, regional director, and state president. She has also served as president of the Michigan Council of Extension Agents at MSU.

## **National Hall of Fame Award (NACAA)**

### **Stanley Moore**

Stanley (“Stan”) Moore, Michigan State University senior Extension educator, was the national finalist for the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA) Hall of Fame Award, which serves to recognize an individual for demonstrated commitment, dedication, and effective leadership in job performance as an outstanding educator; association involvement at both the state and national level; and outstanding humanitarian service.

He has been a leader in Extension for 31 years, working to help farm families better understand their business through farm financial analysis. Through education, coaching, and servant leadership, he meets the needs of individuals and families on farms and in the community. He leads through faithful service, and he encourages individuals to become better and meet their goals. His gentle, patient, humble leadership has proven effective locally, statewide and nationally, both professionally and personally. He is effective because of his approach and the respect he affords others.

He has served both his national and state association throughout his career. His service as president (2011) of the NACAA, president (2012) of the Board of the Joint Council of Extension Professionals and NACAA policy chair (2017-19) only highlights his lifetime of service within NACAA, Michigan Association of Extension Agents, and within his role as a senior Extension educator with MSU. He is a 2008 NACAA Distinguished Service Award honoree and was recognized in 2021 by the president of MSU with the Distinguished Academic Staff Award.

## **Regional Communications Winners (NACAA)**

### **Publication and Website/Online Content**

#### **Jonathan LaPorte**

### **Audio Recording and Computer-Generated Presentation With Script**

#### **Marianne Murawski**

## MICHIGAN EXTENSION ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES AWARDS

### **Distinguished Service Award**

**National Winner, 1st Place Michigan**

#### **Laurie Messing**

Laurie Messing, Michigan State University Extension educator, has received the Distinguished Service Award, the highest award presented by the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. The award recognizes members for leadership, education program efforts, and professional development. She began her career with MSU Extension in 2000 as a home economist. She has provided supervision and leadership in her roles as acting county Extension director and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program–Education supervisor. Her work with the Food Safety Team has earned awards at the state, regional, and national levels almost every year since 2014. She has been an active member of the Michigan Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences for 21 years, serving in both the secretary and treasurer role during that time.

### **Excellence in Teamwork Award**

**2nd Place National, 1st Place Michigan, 1st Place Central Region**

#### **Becky DeYoung, Karen Fifield, Parker Jones, Kellie Jordan, Diane Longanbach, Kara Lynch, Joyce McGarry, Laurie Messing, Mary Morris-Donaldson, Katrina Sokol, Stephanie Ostrenga Sprague, Wade Syers, Lisa Treiber, Christine Venema, Beth Waitrovich**

The Excellence in Teamwork Award promotes and recognizes outstanding Extension programs conducted by a multidisciplinary team that demonstrates effective performance and significant results. The award was given to the Michigan Cottage Food Law Team. The increased demand for Cottage Food Law education and the suspension of in-person classes during the pandemic caused the Food Safety Team to adapt their in-person training to deliver it online. In partnership with the Michigan State University Product Center counselors and a Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) food inspector, the Michigan Cottage Food Law Team has offered 29 online trainings reaching 1,303 participants. The team has awarded 360 certificates, created a Farm Market Fact Sheet, and was the recipient of two consecutive MDARD grants resulting in a Think Food Safety Facebook page as well as other educational efforts.

## Social Media Education Award

**3rd Place National, 1st Place Michigan, 1st Place Central Region**

**Karen Fifield, Kellie Jordan, Kara Lynch, Joyce McGarry, Laurie Messing, Mary Morris-Donaldson, Lisa Treiber, Beth Waitrovich**

The Social Media Education Award recognizes innovative, online social media efforts. The award was given to the Think Food Safety social media campaign created in 2020. The goal of the Facebook social media page was to provide a social media platform to create consumer and entrepreneur awareness of food safety surrounding the Cottage Food Law (CFL) and illegal food sales. With the success of the Think Food Safety social media page, content was broadened beyond just the CFL and has enhanced consumer awareness and education through relevant food safety posts as well as Michigan State University Extension Food Safety classes. Partnerships with the Michigan Restaurant and Lodging Association, Michigan Farmers Market Association, local health departments, and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development have contributed to the success of the Think Food Safety page.

## Innovation in Programming Award

**1st Place Michigan, 2nd Place Central Region**

**Karen Fifield, Kara Lynch, Joyce McGarry, Becky McKendry, Laurie Messing, Lisa Treiber, Beth Waitrovich**

## Human Development/Family Relations Award

**1st Place Michigan, 2nd Place Central Region**

**Courtney Aldrich, Patti Marrs, Danielle Melching, Michelle Neff, Anne O'Rourke-Bean, Carrie Shrier, Vivian Washington, Kevin Zoromski**

# WE ARE EXTENSION



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