CENTER NEWS:

According to a recent study, 63% of all resolutions set by community development faculty and professionals are abandoned by January 15th. Even more alarming, 89% in the West appear to be so distracted by unseasonable weather that they never set any resolutions!*

Don't fret, your western community development colleagues offer you hope and help!

In 2014, if you want to learn how to...
- Feed your community
- Work with Latino audiences
- Help community leaders understand their economy
- Evaluate programs with new techniques
- Create a data profile for your community, county, or region
- Facilitate a crowd in a conflict
- Discover community assets
- And more skills and best practices from your Western colleagues...

Then reset (or set) your resolution to take advantage of the $199 Early Bird Registration fee (It expires at midnight on January 25) for the Western Rural Development Center's Community Development Extension Institute.

Click here for all of the details!

*These statistics and facts are completely made up in the spirit of fun.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INFORMATION PILOT COMMUNITIES

Call for Proposals
DEADLINE: JAN. 21, 2014

The Western Rural Development Center in collaboration with its sister centers is pleased to announce our Call for Proposals for the new project Community Assessment and Education to Promote Behavioral Health Planning and Evaluation (CAPE). Funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and facilitated by the USDA, the purpose of CAPE is to explore ways in which communities currently gain information on behavioral health, to discover what datasets exist, and to work with pilot communities to enhance access to needed information.

This is a national program with funding open to 1862, 1890, and 1994 land-grant institutions, and if desired, their local partners. Land-grant branch campuses and Extension offices are included in the list of eligible entities. Proposals must be led by an employee of a land-grant institution. The lead institution may be located in the target community or can be outside the target community if strong linkages can be documented.

A webinar describing the project has been archived and may be viewed from the CAPE website at http://healthbench.info/news.html.

Learn more.

REGIONAL COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SPECIALISTS

Call for Proposals
DEADLINE: JAN. 21, 2014

The CAPE Project is seeking four Regional Community Behavioral Health Specialists. The Regional Specialists will: develop strong working relationships with state agencies in their multi-state region; inventory and describe data resources; facilitate surveys of end-users of community behavioral health data; develop region-appropriate toolkits and curricula; assist in dissemination of materials including delivering training and evaluation; coordinate activities with USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, DHHS'S Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and University Extension services within the multi-state region.

Compensation is commensurate with prior training, experience, and salary history.

For more detailed information and to apply, view the Call for Proposals.

Learn more.
EXPLORING SCENARIO PLANNING GRANT
Request for Proposals
DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 15, 2014

Interested in using exploratory scenario planning to assist in a planning or community decision-making process? Apply today!

Western Lands and Communities (WLC), a joint program between the Sonoran Institute and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, is seeking communities interested in using exploratory scenario planning to assist in a planning or community decision-making process that engages multiple stakeholders. Topics could include issues such as water resources, energy, and climatic variability or changes, as well as how these issues may relate to land use planning or community futures.

To apply and for more information, please see the complete Request for Proposals.

Learn more about the Sonoran Institute.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY
ANNUAL MEETING
Call for Submissions
DEADLINE JAN. 31, 2014

The 2014 Annual Meeting of the Community Development Society will focus on effective community development strategies, programs, and policies --- fostered by CD practitioners, academics, elected officials, development organizations, organized citizens and motivated individuals --- meant to inspire a Renaissance in communities around the world.

Learn more.

WEBINAR - FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)
Agricultural Economics & Rural Communities (AERC) Foundational Program Area
JANUARY 22, 2014
11:00 am - 1:00 pm (MST)

FEATURING
Highlights of the AERC program area, eligibility requirements, and other aspects of the following five programs will be discussed along with questions and answers.

- Economics, Markets and Trade
- Environmental and Natural Resource Economics
- Entrepreneurship, Technology and Innovation
- Rural Communities and Regional Development
- Small and Medium Sized Farms

MODERATOR
Fen Hunt

PRESENTERS
Robbin Shoemaker, Jill Auburn, Denis Ebedaghe

TO PARTICIPATE
Join the webinar at the following link a few minutes before the starting time (# lines is limited; first come, first served):

WEBINAR Weblink
http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/afri-aerc/

AUDIO
Via your computer speakers/microphone, or via telephone: 888-844-9904 access code 6824450#

PLEASE NOTE (whether or not you join the webinar):
Letters of intent are required for these programs (a new requirement of AERC in 2014), due on February 19, and the application deadline for full proposals is April 28, 2014. You cannot submit a proposal if you do not first submit a letter of intent.

The 2014 AFRI Foundational Request for Applications can be found at:

For Grant-Writing Tips and Other AFRI Information, see:
http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/afri/afri.html

For more information on AERC including a link to abstracts of projects funded in the past (2011), see:
http://www.nifa.usda.gov/fo/agricultureeconomicsandruralcommunitiesafri.cfm

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Robbin Shoemaker at 202-720-5468
rshoemaker@nifa.usda.gov

WEBINARS
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)
Agricultural Economics & Rural Communities (AERC) Foundational Program Area
National Institute of Food and Agriculture
Wednesday, January 22, 2014
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (MST)

Webinar Link.
Shifting Intermediaries: Tracing the Land Grant Role in Water Management in Nebraska
North Central Regional Center for Rural Development
Wednesday, January 29, 2014
11:00 AM (MST)
Details.

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, TRAININGS

Community Development Extension Institute
Western Rural Development Center
3-28 Feb. 2014
Boise, ID
Details.

Women in Agriculture Conference
Washington State University
March 15, 2014
Washington, Oregon, Idaho
Details.

Creating Rural Wealth and Enhancing Food Security for Rural America through Innovative Practices
National Value Added Conference and What Works III Regional Conference
National Press Club
13-15 May 2013
Baltimore, MD
Details.

NACDEP 2014 - The Art of Reinvention
National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals
22-25 June 2014
Grand Rapids, MI
Details.

Community Development Society 2014 Conference
20-23 July 2014
Dubuque, IA
Details.

Equity, Democracy, and the Commons: Counter-narratives for Rural Transformation
Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting
30 July - 3 August 2014
New Orleans, LA
Details.

California Naturalist State-Wide Conference
17-19 October 2014
Pacific Grove, CA
Details.

OUR ENERGY FUTURE

This past issue of Rural Connections looks at energy use in the U.S. and includes an introduction by DoE Senior Advisor LeAnn Oliver and an article by Utah Governor Gary Herbert.

Read this issue.

DID YOU MISS AN ISSUE?
Past issues of Rural Connections are available on our website.

Read past issues today!