

# RuralCONNECTIONSMONTHLY

A newsletter of the Western Rural Development Center

## WHERE IN THE REGION ARE YOU?

The 13 western states and territories served by the Western Rural Development Center span one quarter of the earth. The Center's region stretches 7,700 miles from the western most island of Palau in the Pacific Ocean to the eastern most state of Colorado; more than 3,300 miles from Fairbanks, Alaska, at its northern end to American Samoa in the south; and more than 1,350 miles from the U.S. - Mexico border in California to the U.S. - Canadian border (The Western Perspective and Western Agenda, 2015).



**We'd love to know where in the region, or world, you are located.**

[Click here to tell us where you are!](#)

## CONGRATULATIONS TO WESTERN REGION NACDEP AWARD WINNERS!

The Western Rural Development Center extends its congratulations to Montana State University's Micky Zurcher and Tom Harrington. Zurcher and Harrington were awarded the National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals (NACDEP) Western Region Excellence in Teamwork Award for their effort in "Making Boulder's Future Bright." This award recognizes outstanding work in building partnerships and collaborations to address a unique problem. [Read about the work they did in Boulder, Montana, in the Spring 2017 issue of Rural Connections.](#)



## STATE REPORTS FROM THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS

State reports from the National Community and Economic Resource Development Indicators detail some of the Extension community and economic development work at 34 land-grant universities throughout the U.S. [Read the reports.](#)



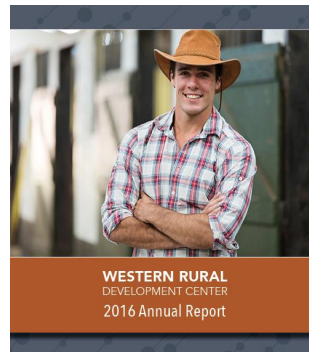
## WRDC PUBLICATION LIBRARY

Looking for articles from *Rural Connections*, Western Policy Briefs, or past publications by Western Rural Development Center contributors? Interested in the regional perspectives on community and economic development work dating back to the 1980s? Check out our extensive publications library. You may search by author name, publication title, keywords, or publication date. [Visit the library.](#)



## WRDC 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

The Western Rural Development Center's 2016 Annual Report is now available. It highlights some of our activities from the year and includes an introduction from Director Don E. Albrecht, updates on the ASAP Training Curriculum Team, evaluation summary data from the Extension Sustainability Summit and the Community Development Extension Institute, publications, partners, and funding. [Read the report.](#)



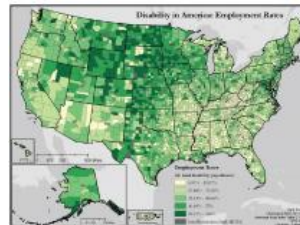
## SUSTAINABILITY OUTREACH IN EXTENSION: NATIONAL SURVEY SUMMARY

The results of a national survey of Cooperative Extension on sustainability outreach are in and overwhelmingly respondents indicated that sustainability is important or extremely important. Out of over 1,300 survey respondents, 46.8% (or 607 respondents) indicated that sustainability is important, and 46.3% (or 614 respondents) indicated it was extremely important. The survey and results is the work of Dr. Roslynn Brain McCann, Utah State University Sustainable Communities Extension Specialist and former Chair, Extension Sustainability Summit. Dr. Brain is finalizing the full report and state summary reports. These will be shared when available. [Read the summary.](#)



## MAPPING DISABILITY AND EMPLOYMENT

The Research and Training Center on Disability in Rural Communities at the University of Montana used data from the American Community Survey to explore and map disability and employment. "Improving employment outcomes for people with disabilities requires overcoming persistent rural conditions and barriers." [Read more.](#)



## OPPORTUNITIES

Applications Now Being Accepted for Small Business Innovation Research Program - Phase I.

[Learn more.](#)

USDA Seeks Applications for Community Development Grants.

[Learn more.](#)

Funds Available for Communities from the Homeland Security National Training Program.

[Learn more.](#)

WEBINAR: Family Business Contributions to Sustainable and Entrepreneurial Rural Communities Over Time

July 20, 2017/11:00 AM (MDT)

[Details.](#)

Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting

July 27-30, 2017

[Details.](#)

National Extension Tourism Conference

August 8-10, 2017

[Details.](#)

Higher Ground Fair: Celebrating Rural Living in the Rocky Mountains

September 23-24, 2107

[Details.](#)

Extension Disaster Education Network Annual Meeting

September 26-29, 2017

[Details.](#)



Rural Connections Monthly (RC Monthly) is published by the Western Rural Development Center most months of the year, and is intended to provide updates on activities at the Center along with items of interest to those working in or with rural communities in the Western U.S. This material is based upon work that is supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under award number 2016-51150-25538.

**STAY CONNECTED WITH WRDC!**



[wrdc.usu.edu](http://wrdc.usu.edu)