

RuralCONNECTIONSMONTHLY

A newsletter of the Western Rural Development Center

CENTER NEWS: Board of Directors Gather at Diné College for Annual Meeting

BY DON E. ALBRECHT

The Western Rural Development Center's Board of Directors met March 13-14 at Diné College in Tsaile, Arizona, on the Navajo Reservation. The meeting began with a welcome from Daryl Begay, Director of Development at Diné College and was followed by the USDA-NIFA report by the WRDC's National Program Leader Brent Elrod.



The Board then reviewed the Center's accomplishments of the past year and engaged in fruitful discussions focusing on how the Western Rural Development Center can be of greatest value to our partners and stakeholders and how to utilize scarce resources. Specifically, we discussed ideas for future workshops, trainings and programs that could benefit Native American populations in the region. We also discussed the future of "Rural Connections" and vacancies on the Board of Directors.

We took advantage of the unique meeting location and perfect weather to learn more about Navajo culture and enjoy some of the spectacular scenery on the Navajo Nation. Zane James, President of the Tsaile Wheatfield Chapter was our guest speaker, and he discussed some of the issues and concerns faced by reservation populations. We then toured Canyon de Chelly in four-wheel drive vehicles and under the guidance of the National Park Service. Special thanks are extended to Benita Litson, WRDC Board Member, for being such a capable and gracious host, and to our Board Members for another dynamic meeting.

ASAP TRAINING REGISTRATION DEADLINE EXTENDED



There is still time to register for the Western Rural Development Center's Area Sector Analysis Process Training. The training is being held April 23-24 in Las Vegas, Nevada, and will provide community facilitator training to Extension professionals.

[Learn more.](#)

CHANGES TO WESTERN REGIONAL REPRESENTATION TO NACDEP



THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EXTENSION PROFESSIONALS (NACDEP) ELECTS NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals has announced the results of its 2013-14 Board elections. Mark Apel, University of Arizona, has been elected as the new Western Regional Representative to the NACDEP Board. "I'm looking forward to serving on the NACDEP Board to represent the vast and diverse western region in our community development

endeavors," says Mark. ([Click here to view the election results.](#))

For the past four years the region has been represented by Steve Burr (Utah State University) who served two consecutive, two-years terms. Steve took some time to reflect on his past four years of service and he shares them with us here.

A MESSAGE FROM OUTGOING WESTERN REGION REP STEVE BURR

Now that my two consecutive terms as the Western Region representative on the NACDEP Board are coming to an end this May, I would like to thank all those with whom I have been associated through NACDEP. I am continually impressed with the dynamic leadership and participation by the many dedicated Extension professionals throughout the country who are involved with NACDEP, building this professional association into a strong and viable organization. Over the years I have truly enjoyed interacting and working with, and getting to know many individuals on a much more personal level.

Even though my term of service with the NACDEP Board is coming to an end, I plan to stay involved with NACDEP as this is my professional association and there are many volunteer opportunities to assist NACDEP in accomplishing its mission. I am certainly looking forward to September's annual conference to be held in conjunction with Galaxy IV. I also want to congratulate Mark Apel from Arizona, as the new Western Region representative on the NACDEP Board, and know he will represent our region very well.

NACDEP is a strong and financially-sound professional association, but it will only remain so through the continued support and active participation of its membership, including those of us in the Western Region.

Again, thanks to all!
SWB

[Read Steve's entire message here.](#)

EXTENSION SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT CALL FOR PROPOSALS

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Tuesday, April 9, 2013

The Western Rural Development Center's Extension Sustainability Summit will bring together Cooperative Extension agents and specialists to present and discuss outreach and education activities in five thematic areas: Land, Air, Food, Water, and Energy. The planning committee is interested in receiving proposals concerning Cooperative Extension sustainability programming in any of the five thematic areas.

[Learn more.](#)



RIDGE CENTER FOR NATIONAL FOOD AND NUTRITION ASSISTANCE RESEARCH SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: April 15, 2013

The Institute for Research on Poverty RIDGE Center for National Food and Nutrition Assistance Research funding competition is on the impacts of food assistance program on food insecurity (at various security levels), consumption patterns, food choices, nutritional outcomes, and other diet-related health outcomes.

[Learn more.](#)



4th NATIONAL WOMEN IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: April 30, 2013

The 4th National Women in Sustainable Agriculture Conference is seeking proposals from farmers, educators, activists, and agricultural professionals involved in sustainable agriculture. Women engaged in developing healthy, locally-based food systems are the target audience.



Presentation proposals are invited in the following conference tracks:

- Cultivating our Food/Fiber (production-related topics);
- Cultivating our Farms (management, human relations, and farm transfer topics);
- Cultivating our Future (leadership, network development, and policy topics).

[Learn more.](#)

WEBINARS



From the County Up: Toward a 2030 Vision of Disaster Resilience

National Association of Counties

Wednesday, March 27, 2013

12:00 - 1:15 PM (MT)

[Details.](#)

Climate Communications and Stakeholder Engagement

Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and Sonoran Institute

Planning in the West Webinar: Lessons from Local Governments

Wednesday, March 27, 2013

1:00-2:30 PM (MT)

[Details.](#)

Supporting the Change Journey-Building Capacity Project

University of Vermont Extension

Tuesday, April 2, 2103

9:00 - 10:15 AM (MT)

[Details.](#)

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, TRAININGS

Energy-Water Workshop

Western States Water Council and Western Governors' Association

April 2, 2013

Denver, CO

[Details.](#)

Natural Gas Extraction: Impacts on Rural America

Farm Foundation Forum

National Press Club

April 3, 2013

Washington, DC

[Details.](#)

Seed Sovereignty Conference

Diné College

April 3-5, 2013

Tsaile, AZ

[Details.](#)

EDEN Agrosecurity Symposium

Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) and Strengthening Community Agrosecurity



Preparedness (S-CAP)

April 22-23, 2013

Washington, DC

[Details.](#)

ASAP Training

Western Rural Development Center

April 23-24, 2013

Las Vegas, NV

[Details.](#)

15th Annual National Value-Added Agriculture Conference

University of Arkansas and American Farm Bureau Federation

May 19-21, 2013

Rogers, AR

[Details.](#)

Community Development Society Annual Conference

Community Development Society

July 20-24, 2013

Charleston, SC

[Details.](#)

Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting

Rural Sociological Society

August 6-9, 2013

New York City, NY

[Details.](#)

National Extension Tourism Conference

National Extension Tourism

August 6-9, 2013

Detroit, MI

[Details.](#)

GALAXY IV

Joint Council of Extension Professionals

September 16-20, 2013

Pittsburgh, PA

[Details.](#)

DROUGHT AND WILDFIRE IN THE WEST.

In this issue of *Rural Connections*, hear from western governors, Cooperative Extension Specialists, and researchers on the West's response to and the impacts of wildfire and drought. [Download the issue.](#)

Please note: the file size of this issue is 15MB so it may take your computer or mobile device 20+ seconds to download.



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