

RuralCONNECTIONSMONTHLY

A newsletter of the Western Rural Development Center

CALL FOR ARTICLES

The Western Rural Development Center is soliciting articles for the Spring 2018 issue of *Rural Connections*. To be considered, review the Call for Articles on our website and submit a 500-word abstract by Monday, November 6, 2017.

Get the details.



WRDC DIRECTOR AWARDED WESTERN PLANNER OF THE YEAR!

Don Albrecht, WRDC Director, was named Planner of the Year by The Western Planner, the journal for western planning since 1979, for his work in community and economic development throughout the West. This award honors individuals who have the fortitude, skill, and humor necessary to be recognized advocates on behalf of planning in the West. His nomination stated, "For several years Don Albrecht has headed the Western Rural Development Center's (WRDC) "Area Sector Analysis Process" model (ASAP), an economic development process developed by Albrecht with a regional team from Utah, New Mexico, Nevada, Montana, and Idaho that is being implemented in counties across the western United States. The ASAP model integrates community desires into economic development, a critical step in the planning process that is often left out of economic development efforts but that is increasingly critical for relocating businesses and new startups."



To learn more about ASAP activities throughout the West, [read Albrecht's journal article in The Western Planner](#). For details about The Western Planner and their Award Descriptions and Criteria, [visit their website](#).

UTAH'S SIX COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS AREA SECTOR ANALYSIS PROCESS RECEIVES NADO INNOVATION AWARD



Utah's Six County Association of Governments/Economic Development District based in central Utah has received a 2017 Innovation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for the Six County Area Sector Analysis Process. The Western Rural Development Center and Utah State University Extension partnered with Six County Association of Governments to deliver the WRDC's Area Sector Analysis Process (ASAP) to the six counties (Juab, Millard, Piute, Sanpete, Sevier, and Wayne) comprising this association. Support was also provided by University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, University of Nevada Center for Economic Development, Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development - Business Expansion and Retention Program, Economic Development Corporation of Utah, Economic Development Administration, Juab, Millard, Piute, Sanpete, Sevier, and Wayne Counties, and The Six County Association of Governments/Economic Development District.

[Click here](#) for award criteria and a complete list of the 2017 NADO Innovation Award winners.

To learn more about ASAP activities throughout the West, [read Albrecht's journal article in The Western Planner](#).

NEW SUMMER INSTITUTE ON ADVANCING RURAL AND COMMUNITY HEALTH EQUITY



By Stephanie Grutzmacher and Kate MacTavish,
Oregon State University

We are excited to announce the 2018 offering of a new summer institute focused on Advancing Rural and Community Health Equity (ARCHE). This summer's offering will combine coursework on Families and Poverty and Community Engagement for Social Change, beginning with a one-week on-campus intensive course in late June. Through seminar sessions, a fieldtrip, interactions with community experts, and a hands-on project the institute will:

- Employ a social justice lens to scrutinize the causes and consequences of poverty in the U.S. and elsewhere in the world;
- Explore how poverty and inequality function as root causes or social determinants to various health inequalities;
- Critically examine how policies and other interventions aim to reduce poverty and promote health equity;
- Apply a collective impact model to envision and plan ways to advance health equity within a community.

Our inspiration for ARCHE comes from the growing body of evidence indicating that U.S. residents living in rural and remote places bear a disproportionate burden of disease as compared to the general population. Rural obesity rates, rates of smoking, alcoholism, and physical inactivity, and rates of suicide among rural youth and young adults outpace those found among the U.S. population as a whole. A lack of access to health care is

identified as one cause of such dire outcomes. Geographic distances, economy of scale models of service delivery, limited infrastructure, and strong cultural notions of self-reliance complicate the delivery of prevention and wellness services. Poverty and inequality present additional challenges. As a pathway forward, community-based solutions may serve as the best means for effecting sustainable change on health outcomes.

The ARCHE summer institute, offered through Oregon State University's College of Public Health and Human Sciences, is designed to provide teams of community practitioners and scholars with the tools needed to address health equity challenges in their community. We envision the institute as relevant to Extension professionals, community leaders in health care, education and social services, and graduate and undergraduate students interested in engaging with real world challenges in rural communities. Graduate and undergraduate credit and non-credit is options are available. Short-term housing is available on campus. Fieldtrip transportation and some meals are provided.

For more information, contact Kate MacTavish at kate.mactavish@oregonstate.edu.

NEW MEXICO COUNTIES CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN USDA STRONGER ECONOMIES TOGETHER



New Mexico rural community and county leaders are taking advantage of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Stronger Economies Together (SET) program to help them develop and implement an economic development blueprint for their multi-county regions. The SET program is a joint initiative between New Mexico State University's College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, USDA Rural Development, and the Western Regional Rural Development Center at Utah State University. "We have nine regions within New Mexico encompassing 32 of our 33 counties," said Michael Patrick, NMSU Cooperative Extension Service economic development specialist. "Across the nation there are 94 SET regions in 32 states. New Mexico has the most counties participating." [Learn more about SET in New Mexico.](#)

OPPORTUNITIES

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT
Dean, College of Agriculture, Human, and Natural
Resource Sciences (and Extension)
Washington State University
[Learn more.](#)

Call for Articles - Rural Connections Spring 2018
November 6, 2017 submission deadline
[Details.](#)

Western Extension Risk Management Request for Applications
Helping farm and ranch families succeed through targeted risk management strategies
November 16, 2017 submission deadline
[Details.](#)

Western Integrated Pest Management Center Request for Proposals
December 8, 2017 submission deadline



[Details.](#)

EPA Announces Local Foods, Local Places Request for Applications
October 25, 2017 submission deadline

[Details.](#)

EPA Announces Healthy Places for Healthy People Request for Applications
October 25, 2017 submission deadline

[Details.](#)

Helping Small Towns Succeed: Clues, Capitals, and Community Resilience
October 17-19, 2017

[Details.](#)

Young Farmers Conference
December 6-8, 2017

[Details.](#)

Our Farms, Our Future Conference (SARE and NCAT/ATTRA)
April 3-5, 2018

[Details.](#)

NACDEP 2018
June 10-13, 2018

[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 2017-51150-27127.

STAY CONNECTED WITH WRDC!



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