

Dear colleagues and partners:

I'm writing today to announce the steering committee that will lead planning for changes to University of Wisconsin-Extension Cooperative Extension, and to again invite your help in dealing with our state budget reductions and charting Cooperative Extension's future.

Taking into account the feedback and comments we've received from you, we'll announce directions for Cooperative Extension in early February. The steering committee for the planning phase of the project will include:

- **Amber Canto**, Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program state coordinator
- **Amanda Gevens**, associate professor and vegetable crops plant pathology extension specialist, UW-Madison
- **Matt Hanson**, southwest regional director
- **Jon Hochkammer**, outreach manager, Wisconsin Counties Association
- **Jeff Hoffman**, Dodge County community development educator/department head and UW-Extension University Committee member
- **Annie Jones**, associate dean/associate director (**steering committee chair**)
- **Bill Klase**, natural resources educator and UW-Extension Committee on Academic Staff Issues member
- **Kevin Masarik**, senior outreach specialist/groundwater education extension specialist, Center for Watershed Science and Education, UW-Stevens Point
- **Rick Mills**, program development and evaluation information systems resource technician and UW-Extension University Staff Council member
- **Kandi O'Neil**, associate state 4-H program director/volunteer specialist
- **Ruth Schriefer**, Iowa County family living agent and Department of Family Development chair

Ex-officio:

- **Sharon Klawitter**, human resource development director
- **Daniel Malacara**, assistant dean/budget and fiscal operations director

I want to recognize and thank these individuals for taking on this critical assignment. They will engage in the detailed analysis and planning necessary for us to implement changes in the least disruptive way. They will continue to collect data and input as they go through the planning process, regularly sharing information from their work.

Expect more information about implementation planning processes and roles in the days ahead. We'll be announcing a project lead and project manager, as well as inviting nominations for planning work groups that will provide essential perspective and expertise.

As you know, recommendations for restructuring Cooperative Extension are posted for review at about.ces.uwex.edu/our-future, where you'll also find a feedback form. Given the volume of comments we've received, we're extending the official feedback period to **Friday, January 29**.

If you've already sent feedback, thank you. Your input will help UW-Extension design programs that are more relevant, flexible, and digital; more fiscally sustainable; and better able to serve communities and organizations statewide.

I know this is a difficult time. Our budget cut target of \$3.6 million is significant, and we need to confront fiscal realities while continuing to fulfill our essential roles across the state.

There is a good deal of uncertainty at this point, but please know that I care deeply about Cooperative Extension and its future. I sincerely thank you for your interest and engagement in this process.

Cathy Sandeen

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