

Welcome to the *nEXT Generation* update newsletter!

This communication is intended to provide updates on the *nEXT Generation* project's progress and provide an additional venue for our valued partners to share questions and feedback. Keep an eye on your inbox for the latest installment!



Q&A with Chancellor Sandeen and Wisconsin Counties Association Executive Director Mark O'Connell

Earlier this month, Chancellor Cathy Sandeen sat down with Wisconsin Counties Association Executive Director Mark O'Connell to provide some updates on the *nEXT Generation* project. Check out the video to learn more about the importance of county partner perspectives and what's next in the reorganization process.

Watch Chancellor Sandeen's *nEXT Generation* town hall conversations

Thank you to everyone who joined Chancellor Cathy Sandeen at her two *nEXT Generation* town hall conversations in August. Hundreds of county partners and Cooperative Extension colleagues joined the town halls in person and online. If you were not able to participate in one of the town halls, you can watch the archives online. And as always, please send questions and comments to nextgencommunications@ces.uwex.edu.

Watch the August 16 town hall (Waukesha, WI)

Watch the August 17 town hall (Eau Claire, WI)

Meet the *nEXT Generation* project steering committee and work groups

Many people are actively involved in moving the *nEXT Generation* project in a positive direction. In this ongoing series, get to know members of the project steering committee as well as some representatives from project work groups.

Annie Jones, Cooperative Extension Associate Dean & Associate Director (and project steering committee chair)

How long have you been a part of Cooperative Extension?

Almost 18 years.

What has been your biggest learning as part of the nEXT Generation Project Steering Committee?

Participating in the project steering committee has been a good reminder of the importance of providing the time that groups and teams need for forming, norming, storming, conforming and performing. We all want the project to move quickly, "rip off the band aid," and yet these are complex issues with a multitude of perspectives that steering committee members and work group members bring to the table. It has also been fascinating to learn more about the project management approach. It is both similar and different to approaches that many of us are accustomed to in Cooperative Extension. It is a thorough and deliberate process that will help us manage the complexity of the organization and that will help provide some baseline data that will inform us well into the future.

What makes you optimistic about the project?

Cooperative Extension is a relational organization made up of people and partners who are, at their core, optimistic, resilient and most importantly, passionate about the future of the organization. It is heartwarming to hear about partners who value our work and take the time to tell the steering committee, executive sponsors and chancellor about individual colleagues who have made a difference in their lives and communities. People care about us. If you're not feeling optimistic right now, check out the "Tap Into It" campaign for a good cheering up!

Learn more about Tap Into It



Identifying county and tribal communications contacts

Through county dialogues, tribal visits, county office visits, emails and other correspondences, we've heard you say many of you are not receiving our monthly updates about the *nEXT Generation* project. In efforts to reach as many tribal leaders, county board supervisors, county executives and county administrators as possible, we are asking each county and tribal entity to designate one person to be responsible for sharing communications with important county and tribal leadership. A survey was sent to each county UW-Extension department head, and they will work with county and tribal leadership to help identify each key contact.

Stay in touch with the *nEXT Generation* project

Keep an eye on your inbox for this newsletter, which will be published every three weeks and will include updates on work group progress and other important project developments. And please send any questions, comments and concerns to nextgencommunications@ces.uwex.edu.

Cooperative Extension nEXT Generation project communications committee produces regular email updates for external Cooperative Extension partners, highlighting updates and new developments in the nEXT Generation reorganization project. Email feedback or ideas to nextgencommunications@ces.uwex.edu

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