

## Communication Memo

---

**To: County executives, administrators, committee chairs, board chairs and other Cooperative Extension partners**

**From: UW-Extension**

**Re: nEXT Generation project update**

**Date: April 28, 2016**

This memo provides background and news about the *nEXT Generation* project to reorganize Cooperative Extension, a division of University of Wisconsin-Extension. The reorganization follows a \$3.6 million annual cut in state funding, part of a \$250 million overall cut to the UW System's biennial budget. Cooperative Extension intends to allocate its share of the annual cut across the division, targeting \$1.2 million from county programs, \$1.7 million from campus programs, and \$700,000 from central administration. This reorganization will shape the future of Cooperative Extension, while staying true to Cooperative Extension's purpose, values and vision.

### **Project structure, call for nominations**

During March, UW-Extension leaders charged an 11-member project steering committee for the project. The steering committee will oversee the work of 16 work groups in the areas of programming, organizational structure, program development and support. An internal and external call for nominations garnered a total of 429 nominations for 300 individuals.

This included:

- 328 nominations for Cooperative Extension colleagues
- 40 nominations for county government officials
- Colleagues representing 61 counties and three tribes
- Across three University of Wisconsin system campuses, 32 nominations for UW-Madison, one for UW-River Falls and two for UW-Stevens Point
- By region, 72 nominations for east-metro colleagues, 48 for north central colleagues, 44 for northwest colleagues and 35 for southwest colleagues
- A fairly even distribution across program areas including 83 for 4-H youth development; 79 for Agriculture and Natural Resource; 96 for Community, Natural Resources and Economic Development; and 79 for Family Living Programs

### **Work group selection underway**

The project steering committee continues to select membership for the 16 work groups. Selection criteria include subject matter expertise; access to information and data; creative and

forward thinking; and relevant skills. In addition the steering committee is considering diverse perspectives across gender, race, generational differences, statewide regions, years in the organization and program area balance, to name a few. Work groups will include up to 10 people including chairs. UW-Extension will announce work group membership once it is finalized. Work groups will provide analysis, options and recommendations to support the *nEXT Generation* project.

**Opportunities for information, communication**

You will continue to receive updates as the *nEXT Generation* project progresses. In addition, project information is available on the web at <http://blogs.ces.uwex.edu/nextgeneration/>.

We also encourage you, along with fellow county partners, administrators, stakeholders, volunteers and clientele to send any questions, comments and concerns to [nextgencommunications@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:nextgencommunications@ces.uwex.edu).