Conspectus (Source: Roger Rennekamp)...

It is my pleasure to introduce you to Conspectus, a new director's blog developed to **inspire innovation** within OSU Extension. It is my goal to keep the spirit of the Vice President's Conversation on the Future of Extension alive by challenging us to **Discover, Dig Deeper and Discuss**. Look for additional postings in the coming months and share your thoughts about our future. The blog is located at [http://u.osu.edu/conspectus/](http://u.osu.edu/conspectus/)
Welcome! . . .

We Welcome . . .

Marcia Jess, Program Coordinator, FCS, who started in Wood County on February 8.

We Welcome . . .

Rugena Modisett, Program Assistant, EFNEP, who started in Lucas County on February 8.

Happy February Birthdays . . .

- February 1 Dale Ricker – Extension Associate, Putnam County
- February 4 Cynthia Torppa – Director, Northwest Region
- February 5 Melissa Wright – Program Assistant, Ottawa County
- February 5 Susan Zies – Educator, Wood County
- February 9 Anita Moffett – Program Assistant, Sandusky County
- February 9 Michael Schweinsberg – Educator, Paulding County
- February 11 Marcia Jess – Program Coordinator, Wood County
- February 11 Pam Kurfiss – Office Associate, Fulton County
- February 12 Ken Mauer – Program Coordinator, Wood County
- February 14 Kelly Milewski – Program Assistant, Lucas County
- February 15 Linda Lauber – Program Coordinator, Fulton County
- February 18 Laura Rohlf – Educator, Henry County

Updated Guidelines for Peer Review (Source: Ken Martin). . .

The OSUE Guidelines for peer review have been updated and are posted at http://extension.osu.edu/policy-and-procedures-handbook/i-administration-policies/review-process-osu-extension-educational

Early PCard Deadline . . .

The February PCard Reallocation Deadline is early this month (February 26). Please have all your charges entered in and approved before Friday.
Hold the Date (Source: Bruce Clevenger) . . .

What: 2016 NW Region Spring Conference
When: April 28, 2016
Where: Camp Perry, Ottawa County
Who: All OSUE Staff

Confirmed Guest and Feature: Dr. Roger Rennekamp, Associate Dean and Director, OSU Extension

Curriculum Development Boot Camp 2016: Last Call to Sign Up! . . .

The Curriculum Development Boot Camp will be offered state-wide again in 2016. The boot camp has six 5-hour sessions (9am-3pm). Every session includes training and technical support for participants as they complete a personal work session. The goal is to prepare professionals to be successful in turning their everyday work into curriculum. The cost will be $120 per participant to cover the cost of materials and food. The boot camps will be held at the Ohio 4-H Center. If you are interested in participating, please send an email to Vicki Myers at: myers.26@osu.edu. Deadline to sign up for this boot camp is Friday, February 26!

 Updates on Policy 1.50 Including Volunteer Rescreening (Source: Jeff Dick) . . .

with Kirk Bloir was presented during the 4-H Hot Topic Carmen Connect last week. A recording of the presentation can be found at http://carmenconnect.osu.edu/p9evgn4njfq/. There were many important things shared and many great questions asked and answered.
Karen Kotula is in rare air. On March 12 she will be inducted into the Ohio 4-H Hall of Fame as well as receive the organization’s Community Service award.

To be honored twice in the same year is a tribute to the dedicated effort of Kotula for 4-H youth and the entire community.

Jenny Morlock, OSU Extension program assistant for 4-H, was involved in the nomination of Kotula for both awards and made the call to the honoree informing her of the awards.

Morlock said when she told Kotula, the phone went silent. “I was shocked, this is a huge honor. And then she told me about the second award,” Kotula said. “There are so many people in Wood County that are so deserving, I am just so grateful for my 4-H family.”

Kotula has served 16 years as an adviser for the Dowling Stitch, Stir and Stock 4-H Club, but her service extends far beyond the club.

Morlock noted her service to the 4-H Bake-Off and the 4-H Quilt Square Trail among the many ideas and programs traceable to Kotula. “I believe Karen’s legacy is to share the service learning philosophy with not only 4-H members but volunteers and key people outside the 4-H program,” Morlock said.

Her club recently adopted a project where they collected old tennis shoes for the Green Sneakers program which recycles old sneakers. The club has volunteered at Nature’s Nursery, assisted in cleaning up after the Lake Township tornado and held bake sales to help fund leukemia research and one for the Ronald McDonald House. The club has also collected aluminum can tabs for all 16 years to be donated to charity.

“You can give back in so many ways. The community service officer position is a very important job in our club,” Kotula said.
Sarah Selzer is one of dozens of 4-H students who was mentored by Kotula. Selzer, a sophomore at Bowling Green State University, recalls going to Kotula’s house to use her sewing machine.

“She is a selfless mentor that always gave to me and other students so that we could grow up, in turn, and continue to give back as well,” Selzer said.

“She’s great, I love Karen, I know she would do anything for any of us club members or anyone she ever met, probably. I know how much she loves to give back.”

Wood County Commissioner Doris Herringshaw got to know Kotula through her former role with the Ohio State University Extension Office.

“She’s a phenomenal person,” Herringshaw said. “When she starts a project you know she’s going to take it to completion and will cover all the angles.”

Both Herringshaw and Morlock raved about the effort Kotula put forth on the 4-H Quilt Square Trail.

“She was instrumental in the idea,” Herringshaw said, listing nearly a dozen parts of the project where Kotula took the lead including creating the “beautiful colorful flyer” used to announce and promote the opening of the trail.

Herringshaw noted her involvement with the Quilt Day exhibit at the Wood County Fair as well as making quilts for infants hospitalized in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and various other causes including the creation of “hospice pillows.” She also noted a mentorship project which brings youth and grandparents together.

“She is very community-minded. She doesn’t do these just for 4-H, her efforts benefit the whole community,” Herringshaw said. She also called her a visionary person, who sees needs and tries to fulfill them, and also educates youth and other adults to help them contribute.

“Everything goes back to the community and back to 4-H. She sees the big picture,” Herringshaw said. “She has a way of reaching people when others can’t,” Morlock said. “When the 4-H staff comes up with a dream, volunteers like Karen help make it come true.”

Kotula’s selection to the Hall of Fame is the seventh for Wood County. She is also the second woman to be so honored from the county joining Donna Arnold who was inducted last year. “It’s the whole 4-H family that provides such a support and provides opportunities,” Kotula said. “I’ve been blessed 10-fold.”
National Conference on Diversity, Race & Learning

"All Things Being Unequal: Achieving Equity & Inclusion in This Generation"

https://odi.osu.edu/about/conferences/national-conference-on-diversity-race-and-learning/