



## **Accomplishments 2022**

The National Urban Extension Leaders (NUEL) Executive Committee and Steering Committee continued to meet monthly throughout most of 2022 by Zoom. NUEL renewed the face-to-face semiannual meeting in 2022 in Camden, NJ a day ahead of the NUEC and again in December in Phoenix, AZ. The National Urban Extension Leaders (NUEL) continued to advance the National Urban Extension Initiative Implementation Plan with the specific goals and tasks established in 2018. The “Implementation Plan” approved by ECOP in early 2019 serves as a blueprint for NUEL’s actions for the next two to four years to move the national, and state, Extension systems forward and to enhance Extension’s work in urban/metropolitan settings. The following set of accomplishments address the recommendations and goals set forth in the Implementation Plan:

### **Support and Engage the ECOP Program Action Teams**

- Provided leadership and supported the Urban Agriculture and Food Systems Program Action Team. The team currently has Extension Foundation staff available, plus support personnel from ECOP. Funding provided by NUEL’s NTAE project helped in the initiation of a national ECOP Urban Agriculture and Food Systems Program Action Team. The team prepared and distributed a survey to the PAT group to determine activity and interests.
- Provided contacts for urban connections and representation on additional ECOP PAT Teams and discussed the ECOP/NUEL collaboration in the Plenary Session at the NUEC 22 Conference.
- During 2021-2022, a \$25,000 New Technologies in Agricultural Extension grant was awarded to the University of Kentucky and NUEL Steering Committee member Jeff Young. This grant had two primary goals:
  - Conduct an assessment/web search to identify what current training classes and resources Cooperative Extension has offered or currently offers for new/beginning urban farmers.
  - Conduct a formal academic literature review summarizing the results in documenting the economic, social, and environmental impacts of the education

and training identified in the annotated bibliography. The focus is on impacts and results, looking for best practices.

- The literature review has been completed and can be viewed online. In addition, an article was developed and submitted to the Journal of Extension for publication, that summarizes the literature review and best practices.

### **Build and Expand NUEL's Capacity to Effectively Communicate with the National Extension System**

- Added Urban Projects to the Extension Foundation Registry of Programs Inventory.
- Partnered with Extension Foundation through the Communications Fellow to establish the Urban Extension Subgroup as a closed social media communication network. It has over 800 members and contains a calendar feature to post event dates by region. The old listserv transitioned to this platform.
- Initiated a comprehensive communication strategy to build the tools and messaging necessary for implementation before the end of 2022. A significant component is to assure a built-in plan for continuity due to NUEL limited resources.
- Focused on enhancing communications between NUEL, Extension Directors and Administration, Regional Extension Director and Administrator Associations and the EDA team.

### **Land Grant University**

- Continued outreach through Regional Networks and Chairs. 67 of the 72 Land Grant University identified Urban Coordinators. Further engagement and identification under the network chairs is needed.
- Established the Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Action Team. The JEDI Action Team was established in August 2022. The team has 26 members representing all five regions and a wide array of disciplines and job functions. The action team seeks to elevate national JEDI-related dialogue and enhance Extension's capacity to address educational inequities and accessibility in urban communities. This effort is a by-product of the 2020 listening dialogue hosted by NUEL in collaboration with the Southern Rural Development Center and Michigan State University to create space for conversations about race relations. It also reflects NUEL's unwavering commitment and support of urban Extension professionals to meet the needs of the cities served. The action team

held its first learning circle in November 2022, attracting 47 participants to explore best practices for inclusive outreach with incarcerated populations.

- NUEC 2022 Urban Extension Conference in Camden hosted close to 300 attendees with 126 speakers representing all NUEL Regions. All Plenary and most sessions were recorded, and links posted in the Extension Foundation subgroup. A portion of the conference surplus (\$3,000) was transferred to the NUEC 2024 Planning Team. A conference summary and lessons learned were prepared to report to NUEL and for the NUEC 24 planning Team. The NUEC 22 Planning Committee also reached out to the 1994 Extension System.
- Collaborated and distributed the NUEC 22 edition of the Journal of Human Sciences and Extension edited by Julie Fox, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Urban Engagement, The Ohio State University.
- Standardized Awards leadership roles in Regional Networks (RN) and NUEL Action Teams (AT). The organization for NUEL Regional Awards were as follows:
  - Regional award nominations were solicited from each regional network, for individuals and teams in the year prior to the national NUEL conference. The NUEL national award criteria is used for the solicitation. Award review committee members were selected from within and outside the region. Regional award winners were recognized in their regions and all nominees were presented to the regional networks members. The nomination package for each regional award winner was submitted to the NUEC action team leader who shared the names at the December NUEL Steering committee meeting, prior to the NUEL conference.
  - NUEL National award selection. Based on the criteria mentioned above, the 5 Regional award nomination packages were reviewed by an award selection committee made up of members from all 5 Regions. The winner of the NUEL national award and all the regional award winners were recognized at the NUEC conference. The conference agenda included the opportunity to showcase all the regional award winners. The national award winner is presented at the NUEL opening reception of the NUEL conference.
- The Professional Development Action Team focused on strengthening connection and partnership with extension foundation, a post conference survey, updating UE field book and extension professional position description repository.

- Professional Development Activities included:
  - Southern Region:
    - *February 18, 2022 – Social and Emotional Well-being – 31 attendees*
    - *June 17, 2022 – Urban Sustainability, 26 participants*
    - *August 12, 2022 – Strengthening Communities, 24 participants*
    - *December 9, 2022 – Protecting the Environment, 19 participants*
  - JEDI Action Team
    - *November 2022 - JEDI Learning Circle:  
Inclusive Programming with Incarcerated Populations, 47 participants*
  - North Central Region:
    - *July 28, 2022 - Lightning talks, 28 participants*
      - *Rainscaping and Community Engagement*
      - *Extension Ambassador Program*
      - *Yoga in Urban Extension*