

CYF NEWS

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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

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Quote of the Month

“A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds.”

—Francis Bacon



Message from the Leadership Team

Spring is, for many of us, a time of both planning and reflection. We reflect on the great work of the year past and plan for the coming program year. It is important to us that you know how much we appreciate your efforts throughout the year, but especially now in what could affectionately (or not so affectionately!) be called the grant-development season. We are aware of the countless hours you spend researching, building collaborations, writing and other fund-seeking tasks at this time of the year. Thank you so much!

Speaking of grant-development, the campus-based FCS team is undertaking strategic thinking around grant coordination and development. This effort will help us be better positioned to share resources and information. It will also make us more efficient grant managers and stewards of our partners' funds.

The 2004 fall Extension conference planning process is underway. The theme for the conference is *Partnerships for Advancing Knowledge and Transforming Lives*. All Extension staff members: specialists, state staff, agents and program associates are encouraged to participate. CYF is ably represented on the planning committee by Joyce McGarry, Pat Waugh, Sheila Urban Smith, Irene Hackworth, Tina Fleming, Kathy Hale, Kathy Foerster and Jeannie Nichols.

In early April Kathy Hale put out a request for proposals for concurrent sessions on behalf of the committee. They are looking for both suggestions for topics and for volunteers to teach/facilitate sessions. Please consider this opportunity! Complete the brief included form and email it to Dave Guikema at guikema@msue.msu.edu by April 30.

Happy Spring!
Cheri Booth
Gayle Coleman
Kathryn Foerster

Dyslexia and Learning Disabilities

Recently, the National Service Inclusion Project (NSIP) sent the following message to draw attention to a fact sheet on Dyslexia developed by the National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD):

What you should know about Dyslexia:

- Dyslexia is a language processing disorder that causes difficulties in reading, writing and spelling.
- Dyslexia can affect different people differently - some can have problems with reading and spelling, while others may find using words correctly and writing or telling left from right challenging.
- According to the National Institute on Child and Human Development, as many as 15 percent of Americans have significant difficulties learning to read.

For more information on dyslexia and to reference a list of possible signs of dyslexia at different ages, please visit

http://www.nclld.org/LDInfoZone/InfoZone_FactSheet_Dyslexia_QuickLook.cfm

PLEASE NOTE/Note from Sue Henry: While using a list about any disorder, remember:

- People with any or all of these symptoms may not have a disorder.
- People without appropriate training should never make a diagnosis.
- Not all learning disabilities are caused by dyslexia.

Fact sheets may be useful if you want to plan for success when working with adults or children with learning disabilities. It is helpful to know how to adjust activities to meet various needs and abilities. If you suspect that a person in your program may have a learning disability, please consider that the way that they learn is very different from the person who does not have a learning disability. The person, or in the case of a child, the parent or teacher can often provide helpful information on the ways they learn most easily. Don't hesitate to ask!

Other helpful resources:

Learning Disabilities Association:
4156 Library Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15234
www.ldanatl.org

National Center for Learning Disabilities:
381 Park Ave. South, Ste. 1420, New York, NY
10016 - <http://www.nclld.org/>

National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities: P.O. Box 1492,
Washington, D.C. 20013-1492
<http://www.nichcy.org/>

Parent's Educational Resource Center (PERC):
1660 S. Amphlett Blvd, Ste. 200, San Mateo,
CA 94402 - www.perc-schwabfdn.org

Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Disorder
www.chadd.org

Welcome Carol Klein! – Carol is working in Montmorency County with FNP and Medicaid-Diabetes.

Last month we welcomed **Viki Lorraine**. In addition to everything that she told us about her position, I inadvertently omitted that she is also greatly involved in *Project Fresh!*

Grant Opportunities

See the Michigan Team Nutrition Web site at www.tn.fcs.msue.msu.edu for information about grant opportunities including *Nutrition/Physical Activity Grants* available to school districts from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (letter of intent due April 20 and application due May 12, 2004) and a \$5,000 grant opportunity to promote healthy eating and physical activity in children ages 9-18 with a focus on increasing calcium consumption using the "3 A Day of Dairy" message. Proposals are due May 31, 2004.



EITC Resources

In response to requests from the regional visits regarding the Earned Income Tax Credit Project, here are a few resources that are now available around the EITC initiative.

A PowerPoint presentation has been developed for MSUE staff to help promote EITC in your own community. This PowerPoint explains what the EITC is, how MSUE is involved, and can also be used as a template in which you can add your own county-specific information. The PowerPoint can be found at the following address:

<http://www.fcs.msue.msu.edu/workinghouseholds/wfd-eitc.html>. If you have any questions, please contact Erica Tobe at tobee@msue.msu.edu.

“Investing in Michigan’s Poor: Building Access to the Earned Income Tax Credit and Exploring Methods of Growing What is Learned” is now available on-line. This report was completed by Susan Cocciarelli, M.A. (Academic Specialist, MSUE) and Scott Darragh, Ph.D. (Economist, Michigan Department of Treasury) and describes the study that was completed in four Michigan communities last year as well as recommendations for future work in the area of EITC. Much of the work that is being implemented in Michigan today is because of the research findings from this study. It can be accessed at <http://www.fcs.msue.msu.edu/workinghouseholds/wfd-eitc.html>. For more information about the report, please contact Susan Cocciarelli at cocciare@msu.edu.

“EITC News” is available on-line at the following web address: <http://www.fcs.msue.msu.edu/workinghouseholds/wfd-eitc.html>. This two-page newsletter highlights the following articles: Midway through Michigan’s Tax Season; Brookings Institution Provides a Map of Michigan’s EITC Usage; The Link between the EITC and Building the Local Economy; What’s New on the National Scene; and a VISTA Profile – Introducing Horatio Frierson – EITC VISTA Coordinator (who is located on campus). For more information, contact Susan Cocciarelli at cocciare@msu.edu or Erica Tobe at tobee@msue.msu.edu.

County-Specific Data – Claimed and Unclaimed EITC data by county was sent out to each County Extension Director and Regional Director last week through the county mail system. The information was gathered by the Internal Revenue Service and is their best approximation for EITC Claims and Eligible EITC Non-Participants (unclaimed amounts) for tax year 2001. Please contact Erica Tobe at tobee@msue.msu.edu if you would like additional copies of the data, and/or have any questions about the data.

Last but not least, just a reminder – The governor’s Web site: www.michigan.gov/eitc is your source for updated county by county listings of free tax preparation services in your communities; informational resources to help promote the EITC;

partner listing of statewide agencies that are collaborating on this project; as well as other links and resources about the EITC. Any questions about the site, please contact Erica Tobe at tobee@msue.msu.edu.



New Publication:
Healthy Kids. Healthy Weight. Tips for Families with Kids of all Shapes and Sizes

Healthy Kids. Healthy Weight. Tips for Families with Kids of all Shapes and Sizes, produced by the Michigan Departments of Community Health and Education with input from MSU Extension Food, Nutrition and Health Area of Expertise and Michigan Team Nutrition staff members is now available. It is designed for families of school-age children. Copies of this publication are in the MSU Bulletin Office. Retail price per copy is 80 cents; county price is 45 cents. The publication # is E-2914. Note that this publication is also available to download from www.emc.cmich.edu/healthyweight.



May 2004 Blue Ribbon Training

The following training sessions will take place at MSU in 1210 Anthony Hall, a hands-on computer lab. Classes will start at 9:30 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be from 11:30 - 12:30.

Beginning Blue Ribbon - Tuesday, May 11

This hands-on session will cover basic data entry, preferences screens, family linking, mailing labels, basic reports, enrollment forms, mailing labels, and an introduction to Member Query. Participants receive step-by-step training materials. All new users and staff who want a refresher or staff who simply need to be familiar with the software will want to attend this training. Register for this training at <http://web2.canr.msu.edu/inservice/> using session number 6192.

ES-237, Year-End Processing and Advanced Blue Ribbon - Wednesday, May 12

This hands-on session will include steps necessary to successfully review data files for accuracy prior to

compiling the ES-237, reviewing Member/Leader, Club and Project Code files, the Verification Report, Group Enrollments and Training Log forms, and Year-End Processing procedures. Advanced includes Member Query, Email, Statistical Reports, Achievement Certificates, Membership & ID Cards, Utilities, Packing Tables, and cating historical data files. Participants receive step-by-step training materials. Prior attendance at a Beginning class is recommended. Register for this training at <http://web2.canr.msu.edu/inservice/> using session number 6193.

Blue Ribbon Q&A

- Q. What would you use the temp data path for?
- A. The temp folder is used as a temporary holding tank. Report files are held there and once the report is printed they disappear.

If you have questions or need help contact Judy Lentz-Bishop, at bishopj@msue.msu.edu, 517.353.2922 or Laura Allen, at lacourse@msue.msu.edu, 517.432-7632.



Deadline for Next Edition of “CYF NEWS”

May 10, 2004, is the deadline for submitting articles for the May 14, 2004, edition of “CYF News.” Please submit articles to Gail Hebert at hebertg@msue.msu.edu

TECH TIP:

Lock it Down Like Fort Knox - Your PC’s security, that is. If you have a PC some time or another, you’ve either gotten squirmed by a nasty virus worm or bitten by the spam bug.

The good news is there are a couple of precautions you can take to keep your PC guarded against such pesky electronic attacks.

Every PC should have each of the following types of software installed:

Anti-virus software; Firewall software, *and* Anti-spyware software; appropriate Windows Updates for your operating system

What’s that?

Anti-Virus Software – A software package that prevents computer viruses from damaging or destroying your computer system. Antivirus software may also repair your system should a virus attack it. It is important to keep the software current as new viruses appear every day.

Firewall Software – Any of a number of security schemes that prevent unauthorized users from gaining access to a computer network or that monitor transfers of information to and from the network.

Anti-Spyware Software – Spyware is any technology that aids in gathering information about a person or organization without their knowledge. On the, spyware is programming that is put in someone’s computer to secretly gather information about the user and relay it to advertisers or other interested parties. Spyware is also infamous for stealing a computer’s performance resources which often cause computers to run unusually slow.

To run Windows Update on your computer at least once a week, open your Internet Explorer browser and go to: <http://v4.windowsupdate.microsoft.com/en/default.asp> and follow the instructions.

Listed below are a couple of products that can help you keep your computer on the lock down:

Suggested Products for PC:

1. Norton Internet Security 2004 (Includes anti-virus software, firewall, and pop-up killer)
2. McAfee Virus Scan, Spam Killer, and Firewall

Mac:

1. Norton Anti-virus
2. Norton Personal Firewall 2.0 for Macintosh
3. Mozilla (a browser with a built-in pop-up killer - <http://www.mozilla.org/>)

Suggested Articles for PCs:

<http://www.microsoft.com/security/protect/>

For questions or concerns, please contact:

Samone E.Jones at jones@msue.msu.edu.