

North Carolina Association of
Cooperative Extension Specialists

December 12, 2014

Federation Forum
Union County Extension Center
Monroe, NC

To: Cheryl Mitchell, Federation President

RE: NC Association of Cooperative Extension Specialists (NC ACES) Annual Report

In 2014, NC ACES continued to build upon the theme of excellence in Extension. Building on our past and continuing to move forward, NC ACES in 2015 will focus on **Excellence, Scholarship, and Leadership**.

NC ACES provided several professional development opportunities over the 2014 year. A notable event includes a special listening session held with Extension Administration to facilitate a conversation between Specialists and Extension leadership about Cooperative Extension's new strategic plan.

Another event focused on increasing international visibility for Cooperative Extension and NC State University. NC ACES hosted Winrock International delegates from Myanmar (Burma) that introduced international opportunities to provide farmer education abroad through Winrock's USAID-funded programs. We are pleased that this event resulted in several opportunities for Specialists to share their expertise abroad.

Integrated programming across the university is a NC ACES' 2015 focus. As an early effort in this vein, NC ACES was pleased to host Dr. Teresa Helmlinger Ratcliff, P.E., Vice-Provost for Outreach & Engagement and Executive Director Industrial Extension Service at its Fall Meeting in December 2014. This meeting marks the beginning of a conversation about how two aspects of Extension, Cooperative and Industrial, can work toward being intentional to create opportunities for collaborative projects. We are very excited about our direction for the New Year.

The Association's annual awards provide a mechanism to recognize Specialists who meet the needs of North Carolinians through developing and delivering excellent programs and those who provide exceptional support to Extension agents. One award is given in each category each year. This year's award winners were:

Mr. Gary Bullen, Outstanding Extension Specialist

Dr. Ted Feitshans, Outstanding Subject Matter Program by an Individual
NC Thrive, Outstanding Subject Matter Program by a Team; team members:
Dr. Susan Jakes, Ms. Jacquelyn Miller, and Ms. Becky Bowen

These awardees were selected from among our 296 members.

The membership elected the following individuals to the 2014-2015 leadership team:

Dr. David Green, President
Ms. Joanna Lelekacs, President-elect
Dr. Mark Megalos – Treasurer

Board members are:

Dr. James Jeuck
Dr. Susan Jakes
Dr. Andrew Behnke
Ms. Autumn Guin
Mr. Eric McConnell
Dr. Dara Bloom

NC ACES is especially pleased that Dr. Gary Moore will be a member of the Board. Dr. Moore will be our Parliamentarian and will perform that role also for the Federation as a delegate from our group.

It has been an exciting and productive year and we look forward to the promise of 2015.

Respectfully submitted by:

Dr. Carolyn Bird
NC ACES Past President, 2013-2014