

North Carolina Association of
Cooperative Extension Specialists

December 10, 2015

Federation Forum
N.C. Cooperative Extension State Conference

To: Spring Williams-Byrd, Federation President

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

In 2015, NC ACES continued to build on its theme of recognizing **Excellence**, encouraging **Scholarship**, and providing **Leadership** opportunities for Extension professionals with a special focus on improving communications among all specialists, agents and administrators. We provided three professional development opportunities during the year in strategic plan development, collaborations and networking and recognition of outstanding extension service award recipients. Attendees during these events represented a diversity of departments including representation from both NC State University and NC A&T State University.

In 2016, NC ACES plans to focus on the development of integrated programming across the university and encourage creative ideas for collaborations and partnerships in multiple program areas and universities.

The **first priority** identified in the NC ACES strategic plan was development of tangible benefits for its members and a mentoring role for the organization. What can our association members do to become more relevant and impactful? To this end, the association began with the development of a new Extension web portal, www.ncaces.ces.ncsu.edu. We compiled a summary of creative ideas for collaborations and partnerships across multiple program areas and universities, posted on our website. And we hosted a special session on the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and provided updates from our three outstanding extension service award recipients:

Special Specialist Award

- Hannah Burrack – Applied Insect Ecology and Management Program in Field and Horticultural Crops

Outstanding Subject Matter Program (developed by an individual)

- Sarah Blacklin – Women Working in the Meat Business

Outstanding Subject Matter Program (developed by a specialist team)

- Award Winners: Andrew Behnke, Cintia Aguilar, Diana Urieta – The Juntos Program

For those specialists who were not able to attend the fall NC ACES meeting, they truly missed an opportunity to learn from three of the best Extension programs in the College and University.

The **next priority** identified is updating the NC ACES by-laws to reflect recent changes in our organization and better align ourselves with other associations in the Federation. We supported development of the guidelines for scholarly Extension publications (also known as “numbered

publications”) and are exploring ways to support the Extension Publications Review and Approval (EP-3) Process. And our professional improvement committee is in the process of developing guidelines for Extension Specialists on appointment-based expectations in preparation of their Statement of Mutual Expectations.

NC ACES is experiencing change just like all associations are during these challenging times, but it is during times like these that make our organizations stronger, more relevant and impactful. We are pleased to report the past year has been an exciting and productive one for NC ACES members and we are looking forward to yet another year in recognizing **Excellence**, encouraging **Scholarship**, and providing **Leadership** opportunities for Extension professionals.

The NC ACES 2015-2016 Board of Directors are:

President – Joanna Massey Lelekacs
President-elect – Nichole Huff
Past President – David Green
Treasurer – Mark Megalos
Secretary – Misty Blue-Terry
Parliamentarian – Gary Moore
Elected Board: J. Dara Bloom, Sanjun Gu, Autumn Guin, Joshua O. Idassi, Susan Jakes, Eric McConnell

Membership in NC ACES has increased with 43 members in good standing (dues paid) and 274 on the mailing list. The association voted in 2015 to offer life memberships to active Extension professionals and this option is expected to increase significantly in the future. Only current members in good standing are eligible to serve as association officers or committee chairs.

Respectfully submitted by:

Dr. David P. Green
NC ACES Past-President, 2015-2016