
Participants
Multicultural Immersion Experience
New Orleans
July 18-22, 2009



Greg Andrews, UW-Extension Agriculture Agent and Department Head in Pierce County, Wisconsin. Greg earned his B.S. in Agriculture from the University of Minnesota and M.S. from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. Located in far Western Wisconsin adjacent to the Twin City-Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan area, his educational programs and applied research reflect the diversity of the region and focus on his specialized role in agronomy and crop production. Greg has leadership and multi-cultural experiences as a NELD participant, The Ohio State University Leadership and Management Assessment Program, and has experience as a Civil Rights Reviewer and Civil Rights Days Observer.



Juana Avila, UW-Extension, Latino Cultural Project Coordinator, has been working since year 2003 as a Bilingual Community educator at the UW- Extension of Waukesha. She started working in a program oriented to reduce youth violence prevention in the city of Waukesha.

Juana holds a Bachelor Degree in Science Biology, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de México. She is a certified Interpreter translator from Waukesha County Technical College. Mrs. Avila is a Certified “Train the Trainer Strengthening Families Program” for the University of Wisconsin Extension. She is also a graduate from the “Latino Non Profit Leadership Program” from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee and Cardinal Stritch University. Juana created the first Latino 4-H club in the State of Wisconsin (LaTEENo 4-H club). Also she coordinates the Latino Quad-counties Project “Walk one hour in my shoes”, which is a curriculum developed to help increase cultural competency towards the Hispanic/Latino Culture.



Jerry Braatz, UW-Extension Community Development Educator and Associate Professor in Waukesha County in southeastern Wisconsin where he has served for the past 8 years. Previously, he worked for 5 years as the Community Development Educator with Calumet County. Jerry earned his B.S. Degree from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh in 1992 and a Masters Degree from Western Illinois University in 1994. Jerry’s educational programs and applied research focus on strategic planning, neighborhood planning, demographic analysis, and small business development. Jerry’s multi-cultural experiences include teaching small business development to Hispanic/Latino audiences in the City of Waukesha. Jerry has also served as a Civil Rights Reviewer and Civil Rights Day Observer in five different Wisconsin counties. Jerry is past president and treasurer of the Wisconsin Extension Environmental and Community Development Association. He has completed post graduate credits in management, organizational development and multi-cultural awareness. Jerry is a certified by the Integro Leadership Institute in leadership development.



Kshinté N. Brathwaite, Youth Nutrition Education Specialist; 4-H Youth Development Project Educator. Kshinté returned to Madison after graduating from the UW - Madison with a BA in Social Welfare, an MA in Social Work from New York University, and an MPA from the University of Liverpool in England's northwest. Kshinté's prior work experience has a firm foundation in the non-profit sector, and has always been related to children, youth and community development, specifically advocating for under-resourced individuals and families. Her experience in Social Work in New York ranged from a high school in the Bronx, to a Foster Care and Adoption agency in Manhattan, to her final post as the Secondary Schools Coordinator for The Fresh Air Fund, also located in Manhattan. Work has also taken Kshinté overseas, as she volunteered and worked for Bridges to Community, an international non-profit with a focus on rural community development mainly in Nicaragua.

Kshinté is a native New Yorker, but has been happy to call many places her "home." She was born and (partially) raised in Brooklyn, New York, although various circumstances have taken her to the Middle East, England and Central America to live at different points in her life. While she loves being immersed in various cultures, she is proud to be of Caribbean descent (Barbados), and fully celebrate this foundation of music, food (oh the food!!) and culture which has nurtured her throughout her lifetime. In addition to traveling, Kshinté loves black and white photography, reading, dancing, cooking/baking and being outdoors.



Tonya C. Evans, Family Living Programs, Nutrition Education Program Administrator for Racine and Kenosha Counties, responsible for the day to day operations of managing a staff of 10 and the activities of the local program of both Snap-Ed and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). Prior to Tonya's work with nutrition education, for over 15 years, she was heavily involved in developing and managing wrap around services and programs for at-risk youth and their families in Flint, Michigan. Tonya earned her Bachelor of Arts with an emphasis in English from Grambling State University in Grambling, LA. She earned her Master of Science Administration with an emphasis in Public Administration from Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant, Michigan. Tonya has multi-cultural experiences as a NELD participant and as a participant in the Multi-Cultural Training sponsored by Cooperative Extension.



Nick Heckman, Family Living Programs, Poverty and Food Insecurity Program Specialist. Nick holds a B.A. in Psychology and Sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Prior to starting with Cooperative Extension, he spent some time as a freelance journalist in the Madison area and a year as an AmeriCorps VISTA, working with both UW-Extension and UW Colleges. Nick is currently serving as a co-chair of the Poverty and Food Insecurity Team, as a steering committee member with the Wisconsin Food Security Consortium, and as the project manager for the Poverty Awareness for Community Engagement (PACE) and the Wisconsin Homeownership Preservation Education (WHPE) curricula. He has previously attended two eight-week sessions at the Madison Institute for the Healing of Racism and plans to attend again in the future.



Liz Hiltz, Program Assistant in the Western District Office, Liz has been working for Cooperative Extension just over a year now and loves the work that she is doing. Liz is married and has 2 great daughters. Her hobbies are spending time with her children at their many sporting events, reading and relaxing with her pets.

Liz lives in Black River Falls which also was devastated by a flood in 1993. She visited New Orleans before Katrina and loved it. It was devastating to watch all that was destroyed by Katrina. Liz was inspired to apply for this trip for many reasons; her main focus was to increase her knowledge regarding diversity and bring back information to share with her colleagues.



JoAnn Hinz, Assistant to the Dean and Director of Cooperative Extension, is responsible for the staffing and leadership for numerous statewide projects initiated by the Dean and Director and the administrative team, with special focus on diversity and inclusion programs. She is a facilitator in the UW-Extension/UW-Colleges Multicultural Awareness Program and she oversees the daily operations of the Office of the Dean and Director.

JoAnn's experiences with immersion programs include serving as chair or co-chair for Leadership Wisconsin seminars in New Mexico, Mexico, Vietnam and Thailand, and on the planning committee for a Georgia/Alabama seminar. She coordinates the Cooperative Extension involvement with the Puentes/Bridges immersion program in Mexico. In addition to her Cooperative Extension immersion experiences, JoAnn participated in a Friendship Force visit to South Africa where she lived for a week with a family in Cape Town and spent a second week studying community leadership. In the late 1990's, three weeks of studying Spanish in Guatemala boosted her second language skills, which unfortunately have not been adequately maintained.

Before joining Cooperative Extension, JoAnn was the Director of University Relations at the UW Centers (now UW Colleges) and before that she was the Director of the University News Service at UW-River Falls. She holds the bachelor's degree in Journalism and Sociology from UW-River Falls, and the master's degree in Public Administration and Public Policy from the LaFollette Institute at UW-Madison (now LaFollette School of Public Affairs.)



Yvonne Roulhac Horton, Associate Dean and Associate Director of Cooperative Extension, a division within the University of Wisconsin Extension. As such, she is responsible for the day-to-day leadership of educational programs and administrative operations of the division, which includes 1,000 colleagues.

Horton works to strengthen the base of program planning, program evaluation, reporting and accountability systems. She collaborates on diversity programming efforts, budget issues, internal and external communications and human resources. Together with the Dean and Director, Horton is working to strengthen the personal and organizational effectiveness within Cooperative Extension.

Horton has served as the Associate Dean and Associate Director since July of 2004. Prior to that, she served as the Northeast District Director for Cooperative Extension, providing leadership for 86 faculty and academic staff. In addition, Horton worked for the University of Illinois Extension in a variety of county and statewide leadership roles for a total of 20 years.

Dr. Horton has a PhD from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Master's and Bachelor of Science degrees from Howard University in Washington, D.C.



Shelley King-Curry, Family Living Programs, Nutrition Education Program Specialist, is responsible for statewide Training Coordination and Food Resource Management (FRM) content materials and resources and program advisor to the Central and Quad districts. Shelley earned her degree in dietetics from Michigan State University in East Lansing, MI and a Master's degree in human nutrition from Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI. She has experience in managing multiple county based community nutrition programs with Cooperative Extension in Michigan in addition to her work as a community nutritionist with the WIC program. Shelley has leadership and multi-cultural experiences as a NELD participant and was an Excellence through Diversity Seminar participant on the UW Madison campus.



Richard Klemme is the Dean and Director of Cooperative Extension. As Dean and Director, Klemme is responsible for 1,000 employees located across Wisconsin's 72 counties, three tribal offices and eight UW System campuses. Prior to serving as Dean and Director, Klemme served as the Associate Dean and Program Leader for Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension, a joint position between UW-Madison's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and Cooperative Extension, UW-Extension.

Dr. Klemme obtained his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Agricultural Economics from Purdue University and a B.S. in Economics and Mathematics from Illinois State University. He has been at UW-Madison since finishing his Ph.D. in 1980, starting as a farm management specialist in the Department of Agricultural Economics. Klemme was named founding Director of the UW-Madison Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems in 1989, a position he held until he became the Associate Dean on January 1, 2000.

Klemme and his wife, Cindy, live in Madison and have three grown children.



Dan Kuzlik is an Assistant Professor for the University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension System in Oneida County. His area of specialization is community and economic development.

Kuzlik has over 30 years experience in PreK-18 education. He is also a consulting associate with the Center for Relational Learning in Santa Fe, NM. In addition, as founder and CEO of Global Solutions International, Dan has accomplished community and economic development work in Australia, Britain, Canada, China, Japan, Peru, Siberia, Russia and the United States. Dan holds a BS degree in Marketing Management from St. Joseph's University, Indiana and an MS degree in Educational Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Dan has also had the opportunity to serve in many leadership capacities, most notably as President of the National Community Education Association and as the North American Director of the International Community Education Association. In addition, Dan has served as president of state community education associations in Wisconsin, Oregon and Minnesota.

When not enjoying the work he performs at the University of Wisconsin or in his consulting business, Dan can be found kayaking on the pristine waters near his northern Wisconsin home or staring at the departure signs at international airports around the world.



Mary Lestrud, UW Extension Nutrition Education Program Coordinator in Pierce, Polk, and St. Croix Counties. Mary has her Master's degree in Consumer Economics from Cornell University in Ithaca New York and her B.S. degree in Consumer Economics from University of Wisconsin-Madison. She has experience in developing a comprehensive family living program in St. Croix County for 30 years and more recently supervising the nutrition education program for families with limited financial resources. She has been a Civil Rights reviewer in the Northern District of Wisconsin.



Jennifer Lord, Dean's Office Program Assistant, supports and manages special projects under the direction of the assistant to the Dean and Director and other project team leaders. She coordinated logistics and co-facilitated in Cooperative Extension's Responsibility Based Culture leadership development initiative. Jennifer also supports and coordinates the Civil Rights initiatives as well as other special projects, committees and daily operations of the Dean's office. Jennifer applied for the Multicultural Immersion Experience to learn more about Cooperative Extension work in other states, and to learn about community rebuilding in New Orleans after the devastating impact of Hurricane Katrina. Recovery efforts will be long lasting and significant on many levels.



Nancy Anne Miller, Associate Professor, has been the Youth Development Agent with University Wisconsin-Extension in Vilas County since September 1998. A driving force in her applying for the Youth Development Agent position in Vilas County was that part of that position's responsibility would be as Teen Court Coordinator. Teen Court is an example of a Positive Youth Development program that involves youth volunteers who are empowered through the courts to create sanctions for their peers a type of positive peer pressure. Youth are truly entrenched into having a voice at the table and impacting their peers & parents, the community through this Civic Engagement that has lifelong impacts on everyone involved. Nancy is the founding President of the Wisconsin Teen Court Association, Inc. (WTCA) providing support and training throughout the state of Wisconsin and the United States as well. Gathering around and working with communities that are interested in starting Teen Courts is one of Nancy's favorite things to do. To help others create the program in addition to other Positive Youth Development programming that will meet the specific needs of the youth and the community is a worthwhile endeavor and never a burden to her busy UW-Extension schedule.

Some highlights; invited to provide Tribal Youth Court training in Dillingham, AK and with the Wisconsin Menominee Indian Tribe, recipient of the UW-Extension Chancellor's 2006 Award for Excellence in Civic Engagement.



Cynthia Muhar, Milwaukee County Family Living Agent, Cynthia Muhar has worked as an educator/trainer of diverse groups, for over 13 years. She has worked in both urban and rural communities teaching human sexuality, parenting, communication skills, leadership development, workforce development and poverty issues. Her present programming focus is Resources and Resiliency - strengthening community commitment to support family stabilization. She has worked for UW Extension for 8 years, the last five in her present position as Milwaukee County Family Living Educator. She has a bachelor's degree in Communication and a Master Degree in Education - Curriculum and Instruction.



Betsy Olson, 4-H Youth Development Agent in Grant County, Wisconsin. Betsy earned her B.A. in Sociology from the University of Minnesota and M.A. from the University of Denver. She was a Peace Corps Volunteer from 2003 to 2005 in Jamaica and worked on enhancing delivery of primary education in a rural community. She began her career with UW-Extension in January of this year and is new to Grant County. She has some experience in disaster relief as an evaluator for the Emergency Response Agency after Hurricane Ivan hit Jamaica's southern coast.



Toni Rogers, Family Living Educator and Nutrition Education Program Coordinator in Iron County, previously served 7 years as Nutrition Coordinator in Langlade/Oneida Counties. Toni is a Poverty/Diversity Circle Facilitator and has participated in the Ohio State Leadership Assessment Program. She serves on the Wisconsin Food Security Consortium Steering Committee and is a member of the State Poverty & Food Insecurity Team. Rogers initiated a 6 county hunger coalition, started the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry & initiated the Community Garden which produces organic vegetables exclusively for pantry recipients. This effort resulted in the "2007 Wisconsin Hunger Hero Award" and was featured in the April '09 issue of *Horticulture* magazine. In June, Rogers received the "14 Carat Gold Award" for excellence in education, environment and policy. Rogers earned her B.S. degrees in health and physical education at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse with post-graduate work at UW-La Crosse, UW-Madison and Aurora University. She served as the Director of Community Education and Student Activities at Gogebic Community College in Ironwood, MI prior to joining Extension.



Kevin Schoessow, UW-Extension Area Agriculture Development Agent for Burnett, Washburn and Sawyer Counties in NW Wisconsin. Kevin's programming is focused on crop production, home and commercial horticulture, alternative crops and direct marketing. Kevin also coordinates the Master Gardener Volunteer program for the three county area. His office is located at the Spooner Agriculture Research Station, where he serves as Extension Department Head, and co-manager of the research and demonstration gardens at the Station. Kevin's multi-cultural experience has primarily been through working partnerships with the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa tribal Extension Department and through his experience as a Civil Rights Reviewer and Civil Rights Days Observer. Kevin earned his B.S. in Soil Science from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, and M.S. in Soil Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Julie Stephenson, Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program (WNEP), Nutrition Educator in Iowa County, Wisconsin. Iowa County consists of rural communities located in Wisconsin's Southern District. Julie brings research based information that WNEP provides to the people who need it most. After earning her degree in Child Development, Julie went on to work for SWCAP Head Start, The Family Resource Center of Iowa County and the Dodgeville School District before coming to UW-Extension.

Along with the Nutrition Coordinator, Julie partners with WIC, Head Start, SWCAP, and other community based organizations to reach participants eligible for WNEP. Stephenson's work covers a diverse group of residents in Iowa County from the young children of an elementary school, the older crowd at a senior meal site, and families enjoying produce from local Farmers Markets. She enjoys working at the Free Clinic and Food Pantries to see volunteers and professionals pulling together to make their community a better place for everyone.