



Community Outreach

Making a Difference in the Lives of Youth

“Through the University of Wisconsin-Extension, all Wisconsin people can access university resources and engage in lifelong learning, wherever they live and work.”
– *University of Wisconsin-Extension Mission Statement*

Extension’s Response

University of Wisconsin-Extension educators put the mission of UW-Extension into action through outreach and education with community stakeholders who make a difference in the lives of youth.

Outcomes

Jill Tingey, Jefferson County Youth Development Agent, taught more than 100 youth-serving professionals about new research on brain development in youth. As a result of the presentations, the Jefferson County Delinquency Prevention Council updated information shared with parents and caregivers.

Methamphetamine (meth) is one of the fastest growing drug problems in Wisconsin. 4-H Youth Development and Family Living educators in Chippewa and Sawyer Counties are teaching community members about the meth problem. In Chippewa County, more than 500 community members attended the event.

Polk County is a rural setting but is greatly affected by its proximity to Minneapolis and St. Paul. Program planning surveys and discussions with agricultural educators and advisory committees documented the need to address this urban influence on rural youth. A committee of the Polk County 4-H Leaders Federation, with the oversight from Chuck Prissel, developed a workshop to address the issue. Fifty-three high school freshman and sophomores attended the workshop.

Youth have a wide variety of options for education and employment after high school. They often need some guidance in sorting through those options. John de Montmollin, Kenosha County Youth and Family Educator, works with the local Youth Quest coordinator to offer the Youth Quest program. Twenty-four students now have a customized path to a satisfying career after their post-secondary education.

Contact: Deb Ivey, 608-935-0391, debra.ivey@ces.uwex.edu
René Mehlberg, 920-232-1974, rene.mehlberg@ces.uwex.edu

April 2006