Extension in the City: Urban Initiative County News

National Urban Conference

Texas was well represented at the National Urban Conference May 5 – 7 in Milwaukee.

Three Texas faculty presented workshop sessions at the conference:
- CYEC – A Citywide Youth Entrepreneurship, Business, and Leadership Program by Patrice Hertzock-Barnes, Bexar County
- Project Save – Skills Advancement Vocational Education by Fred Burrell, Dallas County
- Rainwater Harvesting Master Gardener Specialist Training by Dotty Woodson, Urban Solutions Center

Poster sessions presented were:
- Environmental Education for Urban Youth Audiences by Jimmy Rodgers, El Paso
- Establishing 4-H Programs on Military Bases by Michael Shockley, Bexar County
- Be A Dribble – Water Conservation by Dotty Woodson, Urban Solutions Center

County Extension Directors Ray Bader, Lupe Landeros, Skip Richter and Dana Tarter participated in the pre-conference program for administrators. Dr. Bonnie McGee served as co-chair of the Pre-conference Planning Committee.

The Texas workshops and poster sessions were well attended and your colleagues made us proud!
Extension in the City Award

With the legislative session over, it's not too early to be thinking about which state legislator you would like to nominate for the Extension in the City Award.

The Extension in the City Award is presented to elected officials during AgriLife Conference each January. The purpose of the award is to recognize outstanding support and leadership by elected officials for Texas AgriLife Extension Service Urban programs.

Nominations can be made by employees in any population center in Texas. This year the award will be presented to an elected official who is a state legislator.

The guidelines are posted at http://aigrilifeemployees-ext.tamu.edu/doatask.cfm. Nominations may be submitted at any time and the deadline for nominations is November 9, 2009.

Spotlight

Mr. Etouffee’ Day
Over 400 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders at Lee Elementary School in Port Arthur learned more about where their food comes from through an ingenious Science in Agriculture event called “Mr. Etouffee’ Day” on May 29 and June 1.

Educational stations featured the original source of the ingredients for etouffee’. The Ag agent station featured rice. The Horticulture agent station featured tomato and herbs. The 4-H agent station featured dairy. The Marine agent featured crawfish. The Economic Development agent focused on streams of business derived from rice and crawfish production. The FCS agent featured food preparation and nutrition.

The school principal and staff are very excited about the program, and redirected their curriculum to include journaling, research, math and science to focus on crawfish and rice in anticipation of Mr. Etouffee’ Day.

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