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Dear Friends,

I hope you have big plans to enjoy the sunshine this week! It almost makes you want to believe Punxsutawney Phil’s prediction of an early spring this year. Challenge yourselves to break away from your desks for a bit and enjoy a brisk walk outdoors while the mild temperatures last.

Best wishes,

Jackie

Position Announcement . . .
Workshop Leader, Temporary appointment, 5 hours/week
March through June
Lake County, Painesville, Ohio
JR# 416059
12.5 FTE
Post Date: March 5, 2016
Deadline Date: March 20, 2016
To Apply

Call for Nominations! . . . (Source: Terry Niblack)
CFAES Faculty, Staff, and Students:

Our search for the new Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education is now in the advertising and candidate recruitment phase. We are committed to identifying exciting and promising candidates through our collectively extensive networks within and outside of The Ohio State University – networks consisting of you and your colleagues.

We want your nominations! Think boldly and broadly about people you know who are committed to research and graduate education, and whom you believe have the skills and qualities to lead in this essential role. The search committee will be more than pleased to consider every nomination we receive, and grateful for your engagement in the search process.

Nominations may be sent to me (Niblack.2@osu.edu), or to Martin Baker (Mbaker@baasearch.com), or to any member of the search committee (see the committee link at http://cfaes.osu.edu/about/from-the-vp/leadership-searches). There are no requirements for nominations beyond names, positions, and contact information; your personal statement of support will be appreciated even though it isn’t necessary.

Please help us build a strong candidate pool for this important leadership position in our College!

OSU Extension County Highlights Available Online . . .
The 2015 edition of the County Highlights is now available online at http://communications.cfaes.ohio-state.edu/resources/marketing-and-brand-strategy/county-highlights, featuring individual reports for each county as well as Adventure Central and the Alber Enterprise Center.
These reports summarize the impact of our Extension professionals, and our numerous partnerships with community leaders, by highlighting success stories in each of our impact areas:

- Strengthening Families and Communities
- Preparing Youth for Success
- Enhancing Agriculture and the Environment
- Advancing Employment and Income Opportunities

Our federal, state and local elected officials want to know what we are doing throughout the state for their constituents. The County Highlights are one of the most effective publications we use to share local impact information.

You can print and distribute the County Highlights as necessary to help tell our story and highlight work that directly addresses critical issues and improves the lives of Ohio citizens.

(Please update any links from your County website to the most up-to-date version of the County Highlights.)

This is the third post in our series detailing the upcoming innovateExtension event May 12th. You can view other posts in the series here.

This All Sounds Really Exciting, But a Bit Intimidating!
Don’t worry – we’ve got you covered! A pre-event webinar on Creative & Innovative Thinking facilitated by the OSU Leadership Center’s Beth Flynn [Save the Date = April 28th @ 9:00am] and other resources will be offered to participants to help you prepare for May 12th. innovateExtension itself will be all about developing innovative ideas and solutions in a fun environment… not necessarily about hard work with a lot of preparation leading up to the event.

We will also have coaches on hand during the event! Each participating team will be assigned a “creative coach” to help them during their work session and pitch development. Our creative coaches are experts in thinking outside the box and helping folks stay on task! Who are they? Our Ed Tech Unit has handpicked eXtension Ed Tech Learning Network innovation gurus to serve in this role – our OSU Extension ETIT (Extension Technology and Innovation Team) members will be assisting as well!

Event Objectives:
- To provide a day-long work session for innovative program planning.
- To provide a fun environment conducive to creative thinking.
- To inspire teams and individuals to update programs, change the way they work, or develop solutions to organizational challenges.
- To provide Extension staff an opportunity to present new ideas and solutions to colleagues and administration.

Attend innovateOSU on May 11th to be inspired and learn how others in academia are creatively solving age-old dilemmas and finding new tools to strengthen their work.

Attend our post-innovate event just for OSU Extension on May 12th to put these ideas and inspiration into practice.

Ready, Set, Register! . . .
Registration for innovateOSU on is now OPEN! This event will sell out, so register early! You can do so here, or see the conference email below for more information.

As a reminder, you will need to register for innovateOSU (May 11th) and our innovateExtension (May 12th) event separately. Registration for our innovateExtension event will be available soon. This is shaping up to be a fantastic event as we have collaborated with innovateOSU, HackOSU, OHIO, the OSU Leadership Center, and other campus entities to make the day fun, engaging, productive, and of course - innovative!
Event information has been posted to the Ed Tech blog over the past month and we will continue to provide weekly updates prior to registration. Please let us know if you have any questions about innovateExtension!

3rd Annual East Ohio Women in Agriculture Conference . . .
Ohio State University (OSU) Extension will host the 3rd Annual East Ohio Women in Agriculture Conference. The conference is planned for Friday, April 1 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at a new location, the RG Drage Career Technical Center, 2800 Richville Drive SE in Massillon. All women and young women (high school age) who are interested, involved in, or want to become involved with food, agricultural, or natural resources production or small business are encouraged to attend.

Interested individuals can register for the conference on-line at www.regonline.com/womeninageast. Cost of the conference is $55 for adult participants and $30 for students. Conference fee includes conference participation, continental breakfast, lunch and conference handouts. For more information, please contact the OSU Extension Coshocton County Office at 740-622-2265. Deadline for registration is Friday, March 18, 2016. See the attached flyer for more information.

Early Bird Registration for the Leadership Conference!! . . . (Source: Cindy Torppa)
You still have plenty of time to register for the North Central Leadership Conference by the early bird deadline of March 15th! The conference will held at the Mall of American in Minneapolis, Minnesota and you'll find more information at: http://register.extension.iastate.edu/2016nclc

The committee has planned a wonderful conference with exciting and inspiring speakers and great breakout sessions – many of which will be presented by our colleagues from OSU Extension!

And on the opening evening, hors d’oeuvres and fun, fast, fascinating lighten sessions will get us off and running on our three days of learning, networking, and enjoyment! Be sure to bring your Buckeye finest because on the first evening, we are encouraging everyone to turn up sporting their school colors! A sea of Scarlet and Gray would be a great sight to see!

This is a quick conference that won’t take you away from your regular schedule for long – we’ll start Monday evening and end Wednesday around noon (12:15) – Early bird registration is only $275, so get on board and we’ll see you there!

NACAA AM/PIC Deadlines . . .
The deadline for Professional Improvement Session proposals are due March 15. Instructions for applying can be found on page 4 in the December issue of The County Agent Magazine (http://www.nacaa.com/countyagent/2015-04.pdf).

March 15 is also the deadline for NACAA Communications Awards. Find more information about how to apply for these awards at http://www.nacaa.com/awards/QuickStartGuide-HowtoApplyforaNACAAward.php

Search for Excellence Award nominations are also due March 15. Guidelines for this award can be found at http://www.nacaa.com/awards/sfe.php. Last year Gary Gao was a national finalist. Awards vary depending on the category and sponsorship. All entries must be completed online and must include 1) abstract; 2) entry organized according to the following criteria (educational objectives, program activities, teaching methods, results, impact statement and evaluation); 3) no more than three supporting documents; 4) entry cannot exceed 1200 words (excluding the abstract and three supporting documents).

Ed Tech Survey Results . . .
Thanks to everyone who took time to complete the 2016 Extension Tech Use and Skills Survey. The input is valuable in helping us determine what Ed Tech topics to focus on in the coming year. We gained a lot of valuable insight into our organizational tech use and skill set. Visit the Ed Tech blog to take a look at some of the most notable survey data in the infographic:
No matter your current skill level, the Extension Ed Tech Unit is available to help. We are deeply interested in meeting people at their current skill level and navigating them to their end goals. From social media strategy to blogging (and everything in between) we can help. Don't hesitate to reach out! Take a look at our workshop offerings to get some ideas of how we can help you. If you don't see exactly what you're looking for, let us know what you're thinking and we can probably create a one-of-a-kind program to meet your needs or the needs of your office or team. Contact Jamie or Danae.