Northeast Weekly Summary (NEWS)
October 27, 2014

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Best Wishes . . .
Jo Anne Jenkins, Portage County Office Associate, resignation effective October 31, 2014.

Position Announcement . . .
PLEASE SHARE BROADLY

Program Assistant, EFNEP - 100.0 FTE%
Stark County / Massillon, Ohio
Job Req: 403162
Deadline: November 9, 2014
To Apply

The loss of a dear friend and Extension colleague, Greg Yost . . .
We lost a dear friend and Extension colleague over the weekend, Greg Yost. Greg was a dedicated and gifted educator with a true passion for reaching urban youth. He was constantly trying to improve the program and reach additional audiences. All of his colleagues and community partners valued his commitment, compassion, and knowledge. One colleague stated what many of us feel, "... It was an honor to work with him. I am a better person for having known and worked with Greg through the years. I strive to reach the example he has so humbly placed before us."

Youth Outdoors is planning a Celebration of Life event for Greg in the near future. I will send you information on this as it becomes available.

Greg was a real treasure to his family, friends, and co-workers. He will be greatly missed and always remembered.

The family will receive friends 6-8 PM Wednesday at Bodnar-Mahoney Funeral Home, 3929 Lorain Ave, Cleveland.
Obituary

Diversity Catalyst Team Mini Grants Request for Proposals . . .
The mini grant funds will support collaborative efforts between teams, individuals, or student groups with new projects or ideas that enhance diversity and inclusion. Proposed efforts should be consistent with the missions of Ohio State University and the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. The grant proposal can be found here http://go.osu.edu/minigrant

Up to $2,500 in direct costs for one year and used by the end of June 30, 2015. Unused funds must be returned. Funds cannot be used for salaries, fringes, or work that would otherwise occur. Grants are due on November 10, at 5:00 p.m.

Contact Mark Light at light.42@osu.edu for questions. Thank you for your interest in diversity enhancement in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences.
Enroll Now: Benefits Open Enrollment now is available...

Benefits Open Enrollment is now available, and will continue through Friday, November 7.

Review your current elections to ensure they still meet your needs for 2015. As you review your options, there are several things to consider:

- **Medical Plans.** If you completed your Personal Health & Well-Being Assessment (PHA) with all biometric values in 2014 by September 30, your plan choices include Prime Care Advantage and Prime Care Choice. Some employees may also qualify for Prime Care Connect or Out-of-Area, if they meet additional eligibility requirements for these plans.
- **Vision Plans.** Choose between the Basic and Premier Vision Plans.
- **Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA).** Consider enrolling or re-enrolling in a Flexible Spending Account.
- **Life Insurance.** Special enrollment options to elect or increase employee coverage without evidence of insurability, up to specified limits.
- **Short Term Disability.** Special enrollment opportunity to elect coverage without evidence of insurability.

You can easily make your elections online using eBenefits through Employee Self Service (ESS). Visit hr.osu.edu/oe and click "Enroll Online." As a reminder, you will need your Ohio State user ID (lastname.#) and password to log in. For assistance with your password, visit my.osu.edu or call 688-HELP (4357) (university), or 293-3861 (Med Center).

Visit hr.osu.edu/oe to watch a webinar overview of plan changes, review plan information and download enrollment forms.

We're here to answer your questions about Benefits Open Enrollment. Contact Customer Service at service@hr.osu.edu, 292-1050, or 800-678-6010. Representatives are available Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Annual Extension Support Staff Excellence Award . . .**

_There is still time to submit nominations for the Annual Extension Support Staff Excellence Award! Deadline is Friday, October 31 by 5:00 PM._

2014 Extension Support Staff Excellence Award

CES and Extension Administration are committed to a partnership that recognizes a CES member who excels in support staff responsibilities. It is once again time to solicit nominations for the annual $1000 Extension Support Staff Excellence Award!

The award and process for selecting the recipient is patterned after Epsilon Sigma Phi’s Excellence in Extension Award for educators. The award recognizes the importance of knowledge, skills and service. This tremendous opportunity brings recognition to a staff member who excels daily in fulfilling responsibilities when serving customers and staff throughout our organizations.

Nominations may be submitted by a supervisor, faculty/staff, peer/co-worker, customer, or emeriti. To be eligible for this award, nominees must be a current member of Chi Epsilon Sigma (CES) and have held CES membership for a minimum of five years. Required documentation includes completion of online nomination form, letter of support from nominee’s direct supervisor, and two additional letters of recommendation. The award guidelines, criteria, eligibility, and selection procedures can be found at http://extensionstaff.osu.edu/chi-epsilon-sigma/awards-recognition.

Visit http://go.osu.edu/2014CESaward to enter a nomination.

Please take the time to consider possible candidates for this award, and take action to nominate a top office professional. (A list of current CES members can be found at http://ces.osu.edu or contact me if you have questions with regard to a candidate’s eligibility).

Presentation of the award will be on December 10, during OSU Extension Annual Conference.
Registration Open for Annual Conference!...

Go to https://www.regonline.com/OSUEAC2014 today and register for the 2014 Annual Conference and Research Colloquium, December 9-11 at the Ohio Union on the Columbus campus. If you register before the early bird deadline (November 12), you’ll be eligible to win one of 4 autographed footballs!

Go to http://go.osu.edu/2014EAC for agendas and information on this year’s conference.

- One Day Early Bird Registration is $70 (by Wednesday, November 12)
- Two or Three Days Early Bird Registration are $110 (by Wednesday, November 12)
- One Day Registration is $100 for registrations made November 13 through November 21
- Two or Three Days are $150 for registrations made November 13 through November 21

In these times of change throughout our organization, we all benefit from attending the conference and comparing notes with our peers - and this conference is designed to be an all-inclusive meeting. Every Extension employee is important to this organization, and I believe it is valuable to have all of us learning together when possible. We are all working together for the good of the organization and I look forward to seeing everyone at this year’s conference! -Dr. Keith Smith, Director, OSU Extension

2015 CFAES Diversity Catalyst Team Professional Development Fund...

Attached you will find the application for the CFAES Diversity Catalyst Team Professional Development Fund. The purpose of these funds are to aide faculty and staff in attending training sessions, conferences, workshops, or other opportunities that directly relate to diversity and inclusion. Contact Cynthia Toler at toler.2@osu.edu if you have any questions.

Reminder - 11-4-2014 Using Webinars to Teach...

Reminder!
Log in link will be sent out soon so sign up now!

Webinar
7 Tools for Using Webinars to Teach
November 4, 2014
1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information about technology, see u.osu.edu/extensionedtech/.

Are you struggling with developing interactive webinars? Are you interested in finding answers to questions like: What is the optimal length of time for a webinar? What Platform presentation options work well? What visuals work best? Would you also like to learn about interactive features like: polling, quizzes, whiteboard, and more?

Then save-the-date and join the EdTech Team on November 4, 2014 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. for a no-cost-to-you webinar to learn best practices for creating an interactive webinar experience! Please send your RSVP to Kimberly Roush at roush.143@osu.edu to receive the CarmenConnect address for the webinar.

We look forward to hearing from you!