Greetings,

Welcome to the third edition of the Diversity Digest, a newsletter highlighting the diversity efforts within the College of Agriculture Food and Environment. Time has flown by, as I am half way through the 2014-2015 school year and my third as Assistant Dean and Director for Diversity. I have witnessed many accomplishments such as the University of Kentucky MANRRS Chapter winning the National Chapter of the Year for the second consecutive year, the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service having an amazing 28 entries for its Annual Diversity Award, and the collaboration between the Office of Diversity and Agriculture Student Council in awarding Natasha Saunders the first ever Lionel T. Williamson Diversity Award. Diversity has been at the forefront of this college and has been a collective effort. I would be remiss if I did not recognize a true champion for diversity, Martha Thompson, as she retires from the college. Martha has been instrumental in diversity efforts in the Cooperative Extension Service for over 32 years. Further, I am excited to share some of the amazing things that are happening in our college in regard to diversity.

Best Regards,

Quentin Tyler

QUENTIN R. TYLER, PHD ASSISTANT DEAN & DIRECTOR FOR DIVERSITY
NATASHA SAUNDERS, MS EXTENSION ASSOCIATE RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

MEET THE OFFICE OF DIVERSITY
UK College Collaboration: STEM Student Diversity Mixer

The College of Agriculture, Food, & Environment Office of Diversity partnered with the Health Colleges Student Diversity Services to sponsor the first Annual STEM Student Diversity Mixer on Thursday, August 28, 2014 at the Martin Luther King Jr. Center at 6:30pm. The mixer was the office’s way of showing appreciation and gratitude towards incoming freshmen that decided to join the CAFE family. It was also an avenue for students to see the intersection of the Ag Sciences, Health Sciences, and Professional School. The event kicked off with refreshments and opening remarks from Dr. JJ Jackson, VP for Institutional Diversity and Lydia Wims, Director for Student Support Services. The students participated in icebreakers followed by greetings from Dr. Quentin Tyler, Assistant Dean and Director for Diversity and Chassity Holliman, Director for Health Center Student Diversity & Enrichment Services Office. The evening ended with a student panel that offered freshmen and undergraduates the advance to learn about how to transition into college, professional school, and all of the wonderful opportunities the College of Agriculture, Food, & Environment has to offer. The STEM Student Diversity Mixer was a success with over 40 students in attendance. The Office of Diversity looks forward to continuing to partner with the Health Colleges and developing a professional school pipeline. One student stated, “I felt empowered and motivated to continue to follow my dreams of becoming a doctor...seeing others that look like me in professional school provided proof that I can do it too!”

I felt Empowered and Motivated…
I can do it too!!
-Kierra Crawford, Dietetics Major

Office of Diversity Workshop Series: Graduate School 101

The Office of Diversity has recently begun Weekend Wisdom, a series of workshops targeting traditionally underserved and underrepresented students on various topics such as Personal Brand, Dress for Success, Behavior Based Interviewing, and more. On Saturday, October 11, 2014 the Office held its first workshop entitled Graduate School 101. Natasha Saunders, Extension Associate and Spencer Tribble, Graduate Student educated participants on how to determine if graduate school is a good fit, how to start your academic search, requirements and funding, and the power of networking. The workshop was a huge success as students left feeling confident and aware of the next steps in their academic journeys!
Kentucky Extension Diversity Awards

The 2013 Individual Diversity Award Recipient is Ashley Holt, Jefferson County 4-H Youth and Development for the wonderful 4-H Wonder Girls Program. This program addressed the needs of middle school aged girls in the Louisville Metro Area who face racial divides, gangs and drug activity, high unemployment rates, and disproportionately divisions of wealth. Through 10 sessions this program educated girls about healthy living, self-image, teambuilding, communication, leadership, life skills, and citizenship with the goal of preventing these girls from continuing in the juvenile justice system. Staff pointed out changes in girls’ behavior including willingness to discuss issues with each other and with staff members instead of fighting. The girls also demonstrated increased willingness to help others.

The 2013 Team Diversity Award Recipients are Scott Darst, 4-H Youth Development and Amanda Sears, Horticulture of Madison County Cooperative Extension. These Agents partnered with Kentucky River Foothills Community Action Partnership, the Richmond Teen Center, St. Thomas Lutheran Church, and Mujeres Unidad Grow Appalachia in the Richmond Area. This project focused on establishing community gardens for Hispanic and African American residents, although extra plots were open to the community as a whole. There were garden sites at a church, a teen center, Hope’s Wings (a women’s shelter) and at the homes of the participants. Through a grant from Grow Appalachia, a Master Gardener was employed to visit the garden sites once a week and assist the agents. The program resulted in the participants being able to grow enough food for their families, with enough left over to donate to the community food bank. Through this program, 101 families were directly affected which equates to approximately 450 people. 95% of the participants were first time gardeners. 50% of participants were Hispanic, 40% African American, 5% white, and 5% other.

2014 Diversity Award Recipients

The 2014 Kentucky Extension Diversity Award Recipients will be announced in the Spring Edition of the Diversity Digest.
Dr. Quentin Tyler and Ms. Natasha Saunders, CAFE Office of Diversity, had the opportunity to lead an Education Abroad program, Exploring the Diverse Communities of the Dominican Republic. This global course focused on the merging and persistent issues of diverse communities by analyzing the constructs of and considering implications amongst various localities. The program related to disciplines based in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment including: social and technological changes in a global society, the roles inequalities play in civilization and how those roles have evolved, particularly within the Dominican Republic, and multiple views that exist regarding issues of population and division of resources, land use, capitalization, biotechnology, food safety, energy and the environment.

Fifteen Ag and HES students (and other science related majors), all first time educationally abroad, all students of color participated in the program to study the culture and diverse communities of the Dominican Republic.

Students established a basic understanding and communication in Spanish through Homestays and daily interactions with residents of the Country. Participants were able to identify, describe, and analyze inequalities within and among Dominican communities and examine how it related to the respective American communities of their own. They explored the identity and culture of Santiago, the second largest city in the Dominican Republic, and Santo Domingo, the first city established in the New World. Students were also able to examine Dominican Republic-Haiti relations and through a guest lecture and visit to the Batey Libertad (Haitian market) and Mercado Dejabon, a flea market held near the border.

Students initially thought that in a country where everyone looked the same, there couldn't be any discrimination, however they learned through experiences, lectures, cultural dance classes, and visits throughout their in-class and out of class experiences that discrimination against race, class and gender continue to plague individuals globally.
UK Cooperative Extension

2014 Summer Extension Intern Program

The University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension received a great deal of interest in the 2014 Extension Internship Program. The Director for Extension Personnel and Extension Associate for Diversity Recruitment and Retention interviewed 130+ candidates for this competitive opportunity. Thirty-eight students from the University of Kentucky, Berea College, Morehead State University, Murray State University, Western Kentucky University, and North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University were placed in various counties across the state of Kentucky in this high energy, high impact internship.

21% of the interns placed were traditionally underrepresented and underserved students.

2014 Diverse Extension Interns:
- Adria Terry – Scott Co.
- Alaysia Radford – Christian Co.
- Ebony Davis – Woodford Co.
- Kierra Crawford – Shelby Co.
- Jordan Bramblett – Madison Co.
- Lauren White – Franklin Co.
- McKenzie Gearheart – Lawrence Co.
- Tiara Fripp – CAFE Office of Diversity

75% of these students are or were members of the UK Chapter of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences.

2014 EXTENSION INTERN ROUND UP

R to L: Kierra Crawford, Adria Terry, Tiara Fripp, Lauren White

2015 EXTENSION SUMMER INTERN PROGRAM

The UK Cooperative Extension Service is now accepting applications for the 2015 Summer Intern Program.

For more information visit: http://extension-jobs.ca.uky.edu/content/intern-program-description
Pendleton County: Paddling for a Cure
Kenna Knight, Cooperative Extension Agent for Family Consumer Sciences

Every Saturday morning, a 63-year old breast cancer survivor takes to the water with nearly 20 of her closest friends (all breast cancer survivors). They paddle together in a pink dragon boat for breast cancer awareness. In 2008, the Pendleton County Extension Office in collaboration with the County Cancer Coalition wrote a grant to the Susan G. Komen organization, which they received to purchase a pink dragon boat.

The boat was purchased and The Kentucky Thorough—Breast Dragon Boat Racing Team was formed with the help of Extension guidance and leadership. The mission of the group is to promote breast health, women’s health and breast cancer awareness through promotion of early detection; educational information both pre-cancer and post-cancer; and supporting camaraderie amongst survivors and supporters.

The Kentucky Thorough-Breasts Dragon Boat Racing Team’s vision is committed to breast cancer awareness through participation in Dragon Boat Racing and attendance at public events until a cure is found.

In 2010, in collaboration with the Pendleton County Extension Service, the first Dragon Boat Festival was held in Northern Kentucky. The festival’s purpose was to raise money to help support women’s wellness and health and promote awareness. With over 1,000 participants annually for the past five years and even more spectators the team is making a difference. Over $200,000.00 has been raised and donated for breast cancer support. Two more teams have been formed in other locations across the state. In addition to recruiting groups to compete at its local festival each year, the team has also gained members over the years and has competed in dozens of events across the world.

According to the Susan G. Komen organization, in 2014 it is estimated that 232,670 new cases of invasive breast cancer and 62,570 new cases of non-invasive breast cancer will occur. There is still work to be done and The Kentucky Thorough-Breast Dragon Boat Racing Team and the Pendleton County Extension Family and Consumer Science Agent are actively working on keeping breast cancer awareness in the forefront.
AgDiversity Digest

WINTER, 2015

Campbell County: Teen Drivers’ Safety Program

Ronda Rex, Cooperative Extension Agent for Family Consumer Sciences

According to the National Safety Council, “traffic crashes are the leading cause of fatalities for teens. Family members should be anxious about teen driving, because it comes with substantially higher risks for novice teenage drivers than it does for adult drivers.” (teendriversnc.org). Teens On Wheels and In the Driver’s Seat are programs that have been conducted by the Campbell County Cooperative Extension Service since 2003. Both programs make up one large Family & Consumer Sciences’ program thrust. Teens On Wheels was created by Family & Consumer Sciences Agent, Ronda Rex, in an attempt to work through personal grief and at the same time focus on meeting the need for teen drivers’ safety. Teens On Wheels consist of four sessions: consequences of making poor choices, maneuvering an obstacle course while texting or talking on a cell phone, accident reconstruction, rollover simulation demonstrating safety belt use, and a mock trial focusing on the consequences of making poor choices. In the Driver’s Seat (court-mandated) is a scaled down version of Teens On Wheels and is conducted three times a year. An average of fifty teens plus their parents/guardians attend Teens On Wheels each year and an average of fifteen teens plus parents/guardians attend In the Driver’s Seat three times a year. This year, eighty-nine percent of the seventy-one teens and parents from the Teens On Wheels Program who texted or used their cell phones behind the wheel prior to the program reported that they have made a pledge to stop texting or using the cell phone while driving. District Court Judge Karen Thomas has been a key collaborator since the creation of Teens On Wheels and is the reason for the creation of In the Driver’s Seat. Judge Thomas states “both programs provide a wonderful learning opportunity for young drivers that is otherwise unavailable to the Court of Justice. They both fit into the concept of restorative justice that is the cornerstone of juvenile justice reform. There are no other programs that serve the Court of Justice and they are one of a kind programs that are needed for both teens and parents in Campbell County. The teens/parents save, at the very least, court costs of $144.00 and whatever fine that is appropriate for their individual violations. These fines can range from $10 to $100. In addition to this benefit, points are not assessed on the teen’s driver’s license. This saves the family additional costs that could result in possible increase in insurance rates. Young drivers also can cause the community to have associated cost in damage to property as a result of uncorrected bad driving and the expending of police department time for the stop and possible court appearance. The Campbell County Cooperative Extension Service provides educational programs for young drivers that act as an alternative to the usual adult traffic court consequences.” (Judge Karen Thomas, 2014). An average of one hundred twenty teens/parents from the In the Driver’s Seat did benefit in this financial manner this past year. Judge Thomas also stated “this educational opportunity is not an available referral resource for the Court of Justice in any other form and the hard work, the effort and the true concern for young drivers from the Extension staff is an inspiration to everyone in the
Jefferson County: Gardening Around the World with Refugees

Sarah Stolz, Cooperative Extension Agent for Horticulture

At one of the Jefferson County Cooperative Extension Service Community Gardens, there are several refugees gardening. Through a partnership with KYFarmStart (funded by the USDA/NIFA program, Grant 11010058) and Catholic Charities, Extension agent provided on site garden training and Good Agriculture Program (GAP) training to several of these gardeners. These trainings and certification program allows the gardeners to sell produce to supplement their household income. A couple from Bhutan, used this training to sell their produce, earning $500 in 2012 and $1,200 in 2013. They have also improved their physical health by eating the food they have grown.

Russell County: Community Garden

Chelsey Pickens, Cooperative Extension Agent for Horticulture

Most migrant workers in Russell County do not have a place to grow and harvest their own vegetables. The community garden was started several years ago by the Russell County Cooperative Extension Service to assist those families in growing, harvesting, and preparing vegetables. The garden now has 11 Hispanic families and one Caucasian family participating. Families who have been a part of the garden for several years have up to three rows while others may have one or two rows. This season two new families joined. According to a survey given to the participants (some in English and Spanish) 70% of participants had never grown a garden prior to participating in the community garden. 80% of the participants wanted to learn more about growing fruits and vegetables and over 50% lacked space to have garden at home. Participants indicated they have learned how to plant, harvest, prepare and preserve the crops they grow.
Lexington Young Professional Association: A Rising Star

Congratulations to Dr. Quentin Tyler who was honored by the Lexington Young Professionals Association (LYPA) and received the 2014 Rising Star Award. Dr. Tyler received this award for demonstrating a strong commitment to impacting the community in a positive manner through professional and non-professional service and achievement.

The Annual Rising Stars program is designed to honor young professionals under the age of forty who are emerging leaders in their chosen profession as well as within civic and charitable organizations. LYPA prides itself on our diverse group of members and involvement in the Lexington and greater Bluegrass community. The Annual Rising Stars program is designed to honor the young professionals who are emerging leaders in the Lexington and in the counties contiguous to Fayette County, plus the Franklin County and Mercer County. In all, these areas encompass Fayette County, Franklin County, Bourbon County, Clark County, Scott County, Woodford County, Jessamine County, Madison County and Mercer County.

Office of Diversity 2014 Awards and Achievements

University of Kentucky Student Affairs Spirit of UK Award, Spring 2014 – Quentin Tyler
Tri-State Diversity Champion Award 2014 – Quentin Tyler

University of Kentucky Black Student Union Dr. Evelyn Blackwell Award, Spring 2014 – Natasha Saunders
UK College of Agriculture, Food & Environment Dr. Lionel Williamson Diversity Award, Spring 2014 – Natasha Saunders

Upcoming Events and Activities

- MANRRS Week, January 20-24, 2014
- International Poultry Expo, January 27-29, 2014
- Culverhouse Diversity Leadership Competition, January 29-31, 2014
- Tri-State Diversity Conference Hebron, Kentucky February 18-20, 2015
- Under the Rainbow: An honest Conversation about being LGBTQ at the University of Kentucky, March 31, 2015

UK Ag Round Up 2014

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