

Kentucky Extension

2018

Diversity Awards

State Extension Council Advisory Meeting

February 26, 2019



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



University of
Kentucky[®]

*College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment*



College of Agriculture,
Food Science, and
Sustainable Systems



Thays Flores- Estill County FCS and **Nicole Gwishiri- Bath County FCS** leading their *Cooking Around the World* program. Participants created dishes that are staples to various countries to better focus on family, places, and appreciation of diverse individuals.



Kentucky Extension Diversity Awards

The Cooperative Extension Administration from Kentucky State University and the University of Kentucky would like to recognize the outstanding achievements and commitment those have made to strengthening community diversity, recruiting and retaining diverse clientele while fostering cultural inclusive environments in an effort to continue to improve the lives of Kentucky citizens.

This year, the Kentucky Extension Diversity Award Committee was elated to receive

10 excellent nominations from across the entire Commonwealth.

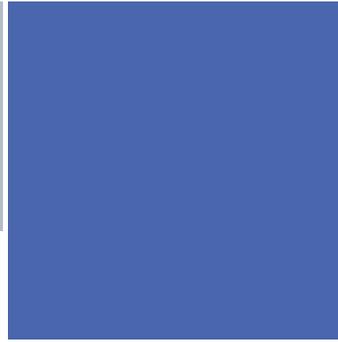
The selection committee had a very difficult time in selecting a team and an individual winner, as each entry was groundbreaking, grass-root centered, and dynamic in its own right. Congratulations to the 2018 Individual and Team Diversity Award Recipients. Your hard work and dedication is appreciated.

— Mia Farrell
Interim Director for the Office of Diversity

Individual Diversity Award Winner



Omar Miralles Perez
Jefferson County
Nutrition Education Program Assistant



Cultural Orientations at Kentucky Refugee Ministries

Omar Miralles Perez, Jefferson County
University of Kentucky – Nutrition Education Program Assistant

Kentucky Refugee Ministries, Inc. (KRM), a non-profit organization, is dedicated to providing resettlement services to refugees through faith- and agency-based co-sponsorship in order to promote self-sufficiency and successful integration into our community.” In 2016, Kentucky Refugee Ministries resettled a total of 1,190 refugees, with 1,010 of those being Cuban individuals in Louisville and Lexington. There are many challenges when resettling in a new country, including adjusting to a new dietary environment, including food shopping, unfamiliar food items, and new food preparation methods. To address this challenge, Cooperative Extension nutrition education programming became a component of Cultural Orientations at Kentucky Refugee Ministries to assist in the transition and orientation of newly arrived refugees to the United States.

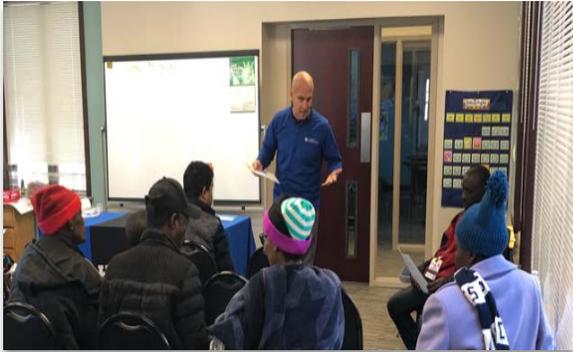
Cultural Orientation is a series of classes provided by Kentucky Refugee Ministries to acclimate newly arrived individuals to a variety of cultural topics in the United States. Participants come from around the world; including several regions of Africa, Syria, Cuba and many more. There are often seven or more languages spoken at once in these orientations. Omar provides basic nutrition education in English to the group and his words are then translated by interpreters into as many languages as needed. This process takes patience and the ability to speak clearly and succinctly for all to understand.

As an immigrant to the United States himself, Omar is able to provide firsthand experience and knowledge of adjusting to the culture of the United States. Omar also shares with these individuals his own success story of arriving to the U.S. just like them, learning English and attaining a job with the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service. Through Omar’s programming, Extension is reaching individuals from around the world that are in need of Extension’s services and that otherwise would not be reached by Extension.

Participants in the program were introduced to common foods in the U.S. and were able to sample new recipes. They were given resources to assist in their adjustment to grocery shopping and food preparation in the U.S. Participants were provided the knowledge to improve their food resource management, food safety and dietary skills.

The individuals participating in this program have just arrived to the U.S. and Omar’s programming provides them with an introduction to Extension and the University of Kentucky and the services that are available to them.

Individual Diversity Award continued...



Let us not act out of fear and misunderstanding, but out of the values of inclusion, diversity, and regard for all that make our country great.



Team Diversity Award Winner

Challenge Me 4-H Club Creates Opportunities for Developmentally Challenged Youth in Trigg County, Kentucky

Jonathan & Jennifer Sink - Trigg County 4-H Volunteers

Janeen Tramble - Trigg County 4-H Youth Development Agents

The target audience included students with developmental disabilities at Trigg County High School. Teen mentors to work with the students were recruited from 4-H and FFA members with an interest in agriculture, primarily farm animals.

Adults included school employees, 4-H volunteers, instructors and employees of the farm that were visited. The *4-H Challenge Me Club* was a dream of Jonathan Sink, a Trigg County 4-H Volunteer with Developmental Disabilities. This project gave youth with developmental disabilities an opportunity to safely participate in a variety of agriculture education experiences, while building a positive mentor/mentee relationship with 4-H teen youth in Trigg County. The focus was on all aspects of agriculture, teaching the students the importance of agriculture on their lives and Trigg County's economy.

The "club" was held during intercession week, which allows all high school students to participate in educational, civic engagement, or career readiness activities held off the school property. The 4-H Challenge Me Club members visited a farm each day. The members developed a relationship with their "Buddy's", before the animals were introduced. Bonding activities included learning members names, beings assigned to teams, and choosing their team

names. The next step was to gradually begin working with the animals until the students felt comfortable.

The teens (peer mentors and the students with developmental disabilities) really bonded that week. They realized that they weren't that different from each other and learned to be patient and understanding. Every team (peer mentor and buddy) set a daily goal and had to reach it and demonstrate it. Working together to show us what they learned proved to me their appreciation for each other.

Everyone indicated they had tried something new and were more familiar with agriculture. One of the brothers of a member said "I have seen such a difference in him this week. He hated agriculture classes at school, but each day he came home excited and telling me what he learned that day. He has so much more confidence because of what he has achieved." One student said "I had never ridden a horse before. I had never even seen one up close before." A peer mentor said "I've learned how to be patient and compromise this week." "I've also learned how to go slower and that you can always learn more."

Individual Diversity Award Nominees



Knott County – Dora Centers – 4-H Youth Development Extension Agent

During KY Valley Educational Coop Regional Transition Fair for visually impaired students, from 15 counties, Knott 4H provided a version of “It’s Your Reality” while teaching the “folded money technique”.



Greenup County– Anne Stephens– Extension Arts Agent

The Breakfast with the Arts program is now in its eleventh year at Russell Schools. The program is partnership between Anne Stephens at the Extension Office and Susan Williams, Gifted and Talented Coordinator at Russell. The monthly program has a history of recruiting participating students from all diverse population, including students in the Special Education program, throughout the school and is accepted/supported by all audience population.



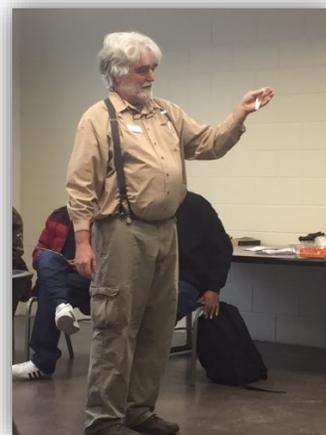
Jefferson County – Joel Worth – Nutrition Education Program Assistant

Nutrition education programming is offered at several recovery centers in Louisville and provides a critical component in the recovery process and path to establishing a healthy lifestyle.



Diversity: the art of thinking independently together.

-Malcom Forbes



Individual Award continued

Kentucky State University – *Edwin Chavous* – Area Agent for Small Farm Program

KSU's Cooperative Extension Program provides technical assistance to small and limited-resource farmers. The Small Farm Program achieves this through frequent one-on-one farm visits to identify farmers' needs and possible solutions



Team Diversity Award Nominations

Breckinridge County –

Lynnette Allen – Family Consumer

Science Agent *Tasha Tucker* –
Nutrition Education Program
Assistant

The Breckinridge County FCS program is providing nutrition and family resource management classes for men who are working to strengthen life skills through a substance abuse program while incarcerated.



District 4 – *Kendal Bowman* – Agriculture & Natural Resources Program Assistant

Clark County - *David Davis* – Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent

Females only make up 29% of the participants in Clark County ANR programming. To address this gap, a six-week series; “Basic of Floral Design” Hence, the creation of “Basics of Floral Design” was developed. Twenty-eight community members took part in the six-week series. Participants ranged in age from under 18 to over 70. Class topics included an introduction to floral design, simple fresh cut flower arrangements and advanced to silk flower arrangement. Local high school agriculture teachers and a local florist partnered with the Extension Office to teach the classes.



McCracken County – *Adair Baysinger,*
Robert Tashjian, & *Amanda Wilson* –
4-H Youth Development Educators

The Calling All Colors Diversity Workshop exposes elementary and public school students to diverse topics. This day-long experience lifts religious, racial, and socio-economical barriers, and demonstrates equality.

Team Diversity Award

Nominations Continued . . .

Mason County – *Anita Boyd*, Extension Program Assistant, *Austin Howard* = Extension Program Assistant, & *Macy Fawns* – Horticulture Agent

Container Gardening and Healthy Eating is a program offered to a low-income area of Mason County. Classes had been offered to adults at the community center in years past but there was little to no interest. The housing authority director was contacted about starting the program and with her approval residents were allowed to keep potted plants outside of their home.



*Diversity is the one true thing we all have in common.
Celebrate it every day!*



Menifee County – *Mary McCarty* - ANR/4-H Youth Development Agent & *Dr. Jimmy Henning* – UK Extension Professor

A forage species study was designed and planted during spring 2018 for a YAK producer. Nine varieties replicated 4 times. 4 YAKS were turned into the garden for 4 days.

