



Extension Connection

Monthly Highlights – January 2016

WNEP provides resources on how to spend money on food that is healthy and cost effective.

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North Fond du Lac Latino Outreach

The North Fond du Lac Elementary School Friendship Learning Center hosted a Holiday Celebration for Latino families. Araceli Oswald (4-H Youth Development Assistant) coordinated this event for the second year. The goal of this event is to bring the Latino community together to interact with other Latino families, school staff and members of the community; also to celebrate diversity and the Latino culture and traditions.

In preparation for this event Araceli Oswald visited the Latino students to teach six 45 minutes classes about the Latino Holiday Tradition “Las Posadas,” its origins and symbolisms. 85 students were able to participate in hands-on activities and made the piñata used at the event and a paper poinsettia craft for their families.

Over 100 people participated in this event. Snacks and drinks were provided by the school. Youth, parents, grandparents, school staff and members of the community were engaged in the celebration which included games and singing traditional songs.

We received positive feedback from students: “Now I can make a piñata for my birthday party;” Parents: “It’s very important to keep this tradition alive and I’m interested in helping in the future events;” Community members: “We learned a lot about Las Posadas and enjoyed singing along;” and school staff: “It is great to see the Latino community coming together and participating in school events.”

Araceli Oswald will be working with the Latino students in the school’s homework program and continue to build relationships with the Latino families.

Becoming a Design Thinker

Ready to drive innovation whether you are an aspiring entrepreneur or looking for a new solution to an old problem? The need to discover unexpected opportunities in the marketplace and understand current or potential customers and their values is what *Design Thinking* is all about. Understanding what customers really want or value is what is most important; it also provides the direction to add the most value, for the customers and the business owners.

Design Thinking draws on methods from engineering and design and combines them with ideas from the arts, tools from the social sciences, and insights from the business world. The common goal: make the lives of the people you’re designing products and services for better.

Another deep-dive into *Design Thinking* takes place on February 9th at MPTC at 6:00 pm. This is the third of individual *Design Thinking* activities held in Fond du Lac by UW-Extension Fond du Lac County and UW Fond du Lac over the past two months.

The concept is to introduce the ideas and methods of *Design Thinking* to the community, educators and students to show how the process emphasizes finding value through the use of empathy as the first and most important factor. The protocol is outlined in up to a seven stage process, depending on the complexity and situation. The process is used in Silicon Valley by Apple, by retailers such as Ikea, and by educators at the Harvard School of Education. The material used during our workshops has been provided by the Design School of the University of Stanford.

Representing UW-Extension's Academic Staff

The "Title Prefix Review Process" is a policy at the university level designed to offer a series of career progressions to enable Academic Staff within the organization to achieve promotion(s). As Secretary of CASI (Committee on Academic Staff Issues), Amanda Miller co-presented with fellow CASI members at the All Colleague Cooperative Extension Conference on November 11-13, 2015, in Madison. The presentation was designed to both offer guidance and elicit feedback/questions from Academic Staff regarding the Title Prefix Review Process and other important issues that affect them, including the restructuring of Cooperative Extension, the performance review process, scholarship, and orientation of new Academic Staff. The presentation was well attended, well received and the contributions of CASI on behalf of all Academic Staff was noted.

CASI's primary functions are to: advise the Dean on issues, policies and procedures that concern academic staff in Cooperative Extension; improve communication within Cooperative Extension regarding academic staff issues by having diverse geographic and programmatic representation; provide leadership for academic staff governance; and build and improves the relationship between Extension colleagues.

Food Budgeting for Job Seekers

The Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program (WNEP) began a monthly (12 lesson) series in January for the "Job Club" program at Forward Services. Forward Services is a private non-profit organization throughout the State of Wisconsin and in Fond du Lac County that provides employment, training and support services to unemployed community members, including W-2 and FSET (FoodShare Employment Training) participants. WNEP will provide "Job Club" members with resources and information on how to spend money on food that is healthy and cost effective, with the goal of helping food money last longer throughout the month.

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