



Your Experts for Life

1998-99 Accomplishment Report Summary

Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs

INTRODUCTION

As we approach the new millennium, the Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs Unit of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System is poised with educational programs designed to help families, communities and individuals adjust to technological, environmental, economic and social changes.

Programmatic staff have aggressively pursued and initiated creative and innovative programs that encourage interaction and facilitate contacts with the state's urban, underserved and hard to reach audiences. The success of their efforts is evident in the accomplishments made through team projects and non-project related activities that were implemented during the 1998-99 fiscal year, as reflected in this report.

In an attempt to better serve the state's growing population and to meet guidelines for federal and state funding expectations, the Urban Unit has developed a comprehensive 4-year plan of work. Goals are to strengthen family resiliency, create a greater appreciation for the value of diversity, educate families and communities to exercise their power to effect change, improve urban environments, reduce threats to safety and health, address urban/rural interdependence issues, and expand access to public information.

A. URBAN FOCUSED EXTENSION TEAM PROJECTS

1) ETP 601, Greenspace Mile

Environmental management and ensuring that nature is preserved and not degraded is a primary responsibility of a committed community, whether rural or urban. The Greenspace Mile project was designed to enhance citizens' understandings and to promote involvement in actively managing common "greenspace" areas within their communities. The Greenspace Mile project proposes to develop one mile of greenspace each year in Alabama's urban communities.

A Rails to Trails Conservancy Conference was held in Pittsburgh in June, 1999. This conference provided background information necessary for the development of materials and an in-service to train Specialists, Agents, and community leaders on greenspace development. The development of materials and training for the project will be completed by the end of 2000.

The project leader serves as a member of the Huntsville Land Trust Board. This activity serves as a connection for the Greenspace project and provides a link to the Madison County metro area relative to urban recreational developments and greenspace park planning. Plans are to pilot this program in Madison County and expand into other counties across the state in subsequent years.

2) ETP 602, Trapped in Poverty, Trapped by Abuse and Trapped by Poor Health

Domestic violence is a crime that takes its toll on family, society and the future. Over one million individuals each year seek medical help for injuries caused by battering. Battering is the single major cause of injury to women, exceeding rapes, muggings and even auto accidents.

"TRAPPED" uses nontraditional approaches to programming, including real life simulations and creative curricular such as "The Winner's Bag for Survival Skills" developed by the project leader and the Family Life Specialists in the Urban Unit. Partnering with other state agencies to form networks with national poverty and abuse centers, project participants endeavor to identify and use current best practice data and solutions to support family empowerment. The project leader has received certification in alternative dispute resolution at the Jones School of Law, Montgomery, AL after 40 hours of training with national facilitators.

Much of the programming initiated under the project is media driven resulting in thousands of non-face-to-face contacts across the state daily (particularly in the metro areas). An additional 1,138 face-to-face clientele was maintained/established during the fiscal year.

Productions from Plays-for-Living and ROWEL Welfare Simulations were conducted by local acting guilds, school drama clubs and lay citizens in Morgan, Mobile, Madison and Lauderdale Counties to promote awareness and stimulate community discussions of domestic violence issues and their effects. Plays-for-Living are developed by a New York service organization using drama techniques as awareness and training tools on family issues like domestic violence. Welfare Simulations are

learning tools created by the Reform Organization of Welfare Education (ROWEL) Association of Missouri and used to train trainers, community leaders and human service personnel to sensitize them to the realities of life faced by low income people.

Examples of other successful programming implemented during the 1998-99 fiscal year include:

- Morgan County newsletters were distributed to 4,000 homes with materials on domestic violence.
- In collaboration with Lamar Advertising, a billboard campaign, "There's No Excuse for Domestic Violence," was developed in Montgomery County. The 45-day display reached an estimated 932,000 people.
- T.O.P.S. (Teens Supporting Positive Service) is a partnership effort which links Jefferson County's Urban Agent (ACES), the Greater Birmingham Humane Society, Birmingham Weed and Seed Project and juveniles from the family court system in a community service project that recognizes the relationship between animal abuse (First Strike) and domestic violence. A community success story resulting from this partnership involved several local vendors, city employees, and service agencies in an estimated \$14,000 (in-kind) venture to clean up a local abandoned pet cemetery.
- "There's No Excuse for Violence," a day long workshop, was presented for law enforcement, counselors, social workers and medical personnel at Lawrence County High School during the spring of 1998-99.

- Approximately 2,000 Sanity Savers, a pocket-sized resource directory for abused women, were distributed. Spearheaded by Lawrence County Extension in collaboration with Safeplace, Inc, the Sanity Savers were distributed in Lawrence, Franklin, and Lauderdale Counties. Other counties are developing similar pocket directories to provide emergency help information to victims.
- In Houston County, a workshop titled "Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention in the Schools," with 70 participants, targeted middle and high school counselors.
- 4-H youth development Agents in Perry County presented "Talking with T.J.- Conflict Resolution" programs to all 4-H Clubs during the 1998-99 school year. The program teaches problem solving skills as an alternative to violent behavior.
- A six-part radio series on domestic violence and associated poor health and poverty issues was planned and implemented in collaboration with WJAB (38,000 listeners) and other public radio stations. Funds for this project came from a grant with Sound Partners for Community Health, Maryland.
- Information on domestic violence was delivered to members of the Blount County Interagency Committee and at two in-service trainings with the migrant Headstart staff.

3) ETP 603, Positive Action on Violence Education (PAVE)

Activities planned under this project during the 1998-99 fiscal year were merged with ETP 602 as a result of program planning and prioritization activities. Specialists working under this ETP channeled their program focuses to a new ETP (611) which promotes service and leadership development in urban communities.

4) ETP 604, A Comprehensive Breast Cancer Education Project

The Breast Cancer Education Project used creative program marketing strategies and capitalized upon holidays and targeted health awareness calendar events to get the word out about breast cancer awareness. Fourteen thousand (14,000) Valentine's Day cards, 6,000 bookmarks, 5000 sachets and 4,000 Mother's Day cards were distributed during the 1998-99 fiscal year. These paraphernalia stressed breast self-exams and encouraged women to obtain regular mammograms and yearly clinical physician exams. Awareness programs were also conducted in dormitories, campus centers, etc. targeting young women and college students.

Over 163,898 non-face-to-face contacts were made, 5,091 face to face contacts and 1,500 new clients. In-service training activities implemented under this project trained 24 County Agents and other Extension Specialists, and volunteers on in depth information related to breast cancer, prevalent statistics and survival rates. Participating agents were certified by the Alabama Department of Public Health to teach breast self-examinations (BSE). A new breast cancer awareness collaboration effort was also initiated with the American Cancer Society, "Tell-a-Friend."

5) ETP 605, Valuing Differences and Managing Diversity

Eloquently stated by the unit's Managing Diversity project leader, "ETP 605 conforms to requirements in Extension that commits us to an emphasis on diversity through our mission and vision. Diversity, human differences in all forms, is no longer an option. It is key to organizational survival and success in the 21st century."

Project participants reached an estimated 3,357 citizens through a number of workshops, displays and seminar programs that were implemented during the fiscal year. Diversity programming included research presentations at the annual Urban/Rural Interface Conference, cultural diversity exhibits to support local Boy Scouts of America diversity programs (Huntsville), multicultural fairs at the Morgan County Fairgrounds, and lay leader diversity training programs in Lowndes and Wilcox Counties that discussed "How to be Inclusive, the Need for Diversity on Board."

More specific activities associated with the project include:

- The Alabama Cooperative Extension System, the Council on Youth Services, and One-by-One: A Safe Kids/Safe Streets Initiative of the National Children's Advocacy Center hosted a workshop on "Multicultural Diversity

Training for Youth Service Professionals." The three-day workshop was open to professionals of non-profit agencies who provide services to children and families. The purpose was to provide strategies to enable professionals to work more effectively with culturally diverse clients and to increase their knowledge of multicultural family life.

- Sponsored by County Agents in Madison County, arts and crafts, video presentations, slides, and displays were used to introduce 729 fifth through eighth graders to "A Trip to the Philippines."
- A 4-H Food Fair in Chilton County exposed youth to foods of different cultures. Other areas of family life were discussed, as well as housing, environment and the food production economy.
- Diversity Councils have been structured in Lauderdale County comprised of representatives from schools, churches, police departments, and ethnic/international organizations to provide advice and act as the planning, implementation and evaluation arm for community diversity programs.
- A community wide forum on "Seeking Common Ground" held in Houston County encouraged citizens to discuss concerns and seek unified approaches to addressing community issues. Through

this group, efforts were made to present to congress a "New Southern Agenda" to improve the quality of life for all races.

Through the 4-H Japanese Exchange program LABO delegates were hosted in Alabama for one month. Alabama Extension personnel worked side by side with Georgia Extension workers in planning and implementing the program that provided opportunities for young boys and girls from Japan to experience American family life.

6) ETP 606, Work force Preparation: Finding and Securing Employment

Workforce preparation is a project with national implications. The project has been successful in meeting the broad objective of responding to critical areas of work force preparation for unskilled or newly skilled workers by adapting, developing and delivering basic job search programs designed to enhance employment opportunities.

Approximately 10, 177 clients were served through job fairs, curricular training, media deliveries, partnerships and collaborations with social service, public, private, corporate and community agencies. The North Alabama Skills Center partnered with project participants to deliver an innovative curriculum "Welcome to the Real World" to 850 students in 16 counties in North Alabama who were enrolled in the Agency's Summer Enrichment Program. The curriculum involves participants in choosing careers, role modeling and making "life-like" financial decisions based on salaries associated with the chosen career.

This curriculum was also delivered to at-risk-males involved in a second

7) ETP 607, Youth Entrepreneurship

This ETP was eliminated during the 1998-99 fiscal year as a result of program planning and prioritization activities. Eliminating this project allowed for enhanced programming in other youth development areas including State Congress events and the Youth Mentoring ETP.

chance "Boot Camp" program coordinated by the Madison County Commission.

The ETP team leader collaborated with the Madison County Chamber of Commerce to produce an educational and job-preparatory reference brochure. This reference resource has been distributed at public and private institutions and at various industries.

Major partnerships are being developed in furtherance of the project agenda including the Birmingham Urban League, Urban Roundtable, Birmingham WORKS, Birmingham Housing, University of Alabama in Birmingham and Lawson State Community college, Redstone Arsenal's Youth Development Center, as well as boards of education in Huntsville and Limestone Counties.

Over 50 employers supported the North Alabama Job Fair held in August at the AAMU West Campus facilities. Houston County also implemented three job fairs during the fiscal year. These fairs combined served approximately 1,527 clientele.

8) ETP 608, Health Education Initiatives Impacting the Under-Served Populations

County Extension Agents, educators and specialists have participated in single and multi-counties health fairs in schools, clinics, community centers, department stores, malls, parks, and churches. Easy to understand pamphlets, brochures, bookmarks, and flyers focused on current high risk health issues such as hypertension, diabetes, Alzheimer's, arthritis, stress and heart disease. Also, programs were designed for all ages to teach nutrition education, healthy eating habits, behavior modification, and physical activities with specific emphasis on reducing risk factors.

Workshops, seminars, and awareness programs were conducted for professional and lay groups. Many church groups, senior citizens clubs, women and men groups, and youth groups are eager to learn about health issues that can impact their lives.

Over 400 new clients were assisted during the 1998-99 fiscal year. An estimated 7,900 face to face contacts were made and nearly 2 million non-face to face contacts are estimated.

9) ETP 609, A Youth Mentoring Program Initiative Fostering Achievement Through Mentoring Education, FAME)

Several programs were implemented during FY 1999 in support of fostering achievement through community partnerships and mentorship education. The Shoals Family Economic Summit, comprised of the Extension System, the Shoals Chamber of Commerce, local school systems, hospitals, and other local, state and federal agencies, continue to lead the way on the county level in mentorship training and recruitment. The mentors, mostly retirees, played a major role in helping the program to meet its goal of assisting Shoals residents in getting off of public assistance. The mentoring program has assisted several families in securing and retaining employment.

The Extension System partnered with the Huntsville/Madison County New Futures Family Coaches Program to turn local community groups and agencies into coaching teams to help families go from welfare to work. The Extension System provided numerous hours of training for mentors and agencies enrolled in this program. According to New Futures' annual progress report for 1999, 53% of the program enrollees have been matched with coaching/mentoring teams that have proven to be very successful in helping them to accomplish program goals.

The Madison County Extension Office also expanded its outreach efforts to partner with a local university based fraternity. The focus was to provide a tutorial "buddy system" for an at-risk school program at the Meadow Hills Initiative Community Center (a local community development initiative). Members of the fraternity were trained on techniques and strategies for effective mentoring to promote self esteem, clarify positive values, encourage high academic standards, build leadership and improve communication skills.

10) ETP 610, Urban Family Network: Families and Communities Partnering in Progress

Three of the Unit's new Family Specialists (Family Life, Resource Management and Family and Human Development) who joined the Urban Unit during the 1998-99 fiscal year worked as a team, to establish ETP 610, Urban Family Network: Families and Communities Partnering in Progress. The ETP was not officially on-line during the program year. Nevertheless, a number of family focused programs were implemented. Additionally, training and marketing brochures were developed including a Family Resource Directory that was distributed statewide.

An Urban Family Life Satellite Center was established through a collaborative effort with the Huntsville Housing Authority (HHA), The Alabama Cooperative Extension System and Alabama A&M University's Family and Consumer Sciences Unit. The center is housed in a public housing apartment unit that was provided by the Housing Authority. Located near downtown Huntsville, the center serves as a hub for educational programs and activities for the city's 12 public housing developments where more than 1,600 families dwell. The Family Life Center is coordinated by the Urban Unit's Family and Human Development Specialist and managed by an Urban Agent, Madison County. Center activities are also supported by two paraprofessionals supplied by HHA.

Other activities conducted to strengthen urban families are outlined below:

- In recognition of National Family Week, the Family Life Specialists conducted a presentation on "Family Strengths," with 100 Lee High School (Huntsville) students participating.
- "It's in the Bag", a series of brown bag lunches were conducted with University students at AAMU to help them deal with situations of stress and change. This series was the family network's response to recent violent outbreaks in schools.
- A series of fact sheets were developed by the Family Life Specialist on "Food for Thought" and distributed across the state. The series provides educational updates on prevalent family issues.
- Family and Human Development Specialist/s assisted County Agents in Madison County in planning and coordinating the Urban Youth Farm Day. Urban youth, 4-H groups, parents and teachers participated in "farm day" activities at the Winfred Thomas Agricultural Research Station (AAMU). Over 500 youth were involved in fun, yet educational activities designed to teach them about agriculture such as goat soap making, ice cream making, hay ride tours, lessons on the food guide pyramid, a petting zoo and a close up view of how to gin cotton.

- The Family Life Specialist also supported youth development activities in St. Clair County where 215 youth were involved in "One Day Full Kids," a fun day of experiential learning activities.

- The Family Resource Management Specialist and Agents with urban responsibilities were instrumental in establishing a partnership of agencies, financial institutions, community leaders and volunteers to promote the Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) financial literacy program. The mission is to educate Federal benefit recipients about the advantages of having their money sent to their banks via direct deposit. The Urban Affairs Unit is working in partnership with the State Department of Human Resource (DHR). Through this partnership alone, 8,867 people have been reached.

- The Family Resource Management Specialist has signed A LifeSmarts Licensing Agreement with the National Coalition for Consumer Education. The Urban Unit of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System will be the Alabama partner. LifeSmarts is an educational program that teaches students and others about consumer and marketplace issues. Ultimately, LifeSmarts will utilize the Internet as the primary medium for local competitions. LifeSmarts, because it is team oriented, will give urban youth an opportunity to develop team relationships in grades 9 through 12. It will also help others to learn more about consumer issues, as well as develop and enhance their communication and team building skills.

- Agents with urban responsibilities were actively involved in programs that focused on families and parenting. The Urban Agent in Jefferson County served as facilitator for the Alabama Conference on Parenting's session on "How to Help Children Succeed in School." Eighty new clients attended the session.

11) ETP 611, Two "C" Programs: Citizens as Change Agents (Yes I Can) and Community Service (SPACE)

While the Two "C" Programs was not on-line as an official ETP, non-ETP work was conducted relative to this project and was initiated under the existing SPACE and the Yes I Can Programs.

During FY 1998-99, approximately 168 educational programs, workshops/classes were conducted utilizing the Yes I Can! Curriculum, reaching at least 4,302 juveniles, youth, 4-H'ers, consumers and 442 adults. One thousand two hundred and one (1201) youth attended self-esteem classes. According to evaluation data forms and personal observations, participating youth showed a remarkable improvement in their self-confidence, attitude adjustments, and demonstrated a more positive outlook on life.

Approximately 1,467 youth, juveniles, adults, high school and community college students adopted wholesome values, citizenship, goal-setting and decision making skills as a result of YES I Can trainings. At least 651 clients learned job seeking skills, good work ethics and ways to keep a job once employed. An estimated 1,425 juveniles, youth, 4-Hers and adults were exposed to tutorial services and techniques of studying. Pre-post test and personal contact results revealed 70% improved grade point averages, self-discipline and a desire to learn.

The student volunteer community outreach program, SPACE (Students Promoting Action: Community Education) was successful in recruiting a total of 68 student volunteers from two four-year colleges (Alabama A&M University and Alabama State University) and one community college (Calhoun College). In accomplishing the program objectives, a total of 1,955 clientele contacts were made in the areas of tutorial services, domestic violence, parenting, health care, mentorship, child care, literacy skills and clerical management skills. In the services areas, SPACE provided manpower hours and support in the following:

1. Strengthening families (Big Brother/Big Sister, Habitat for Humanity, J.O. Johnson Parenting Laboratory, Meadow Hills Initiative, domestic violence programs, public housing authority, senior citizen centers/apartments)
2. Troubled youth (Coalition On At-Risk Minority Males, Harris Homes for Children, Inc., Upward Bound, Juvenile Court PHOENIX Program, Neaves/Davis Center for Children).
3. Health care (American Red Cross, Huntsville Hospital)
4. Personnel support (Alabama Cooperative Extension System)

B. NONTRADITIONAL ETPs AND OTHER NON-ETP RELATED PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

1) ETP 22 7 Enhancing Small Ruminant Animal Health Care Delivery Systems

This ETP focuses on nontraditional animal production—primarily goats and sheep—and represents an ongoing multi-state programming effort among many of the 1890 land-grant institutions. The project's objectives are tied to CSREES's broad Extension and research goals which seek to address needs for alternative food supplies. Objectives of the project are to identify adverse management practices, and enhance the reproductive efficiency of breeding herds through effective demonstrations, systematic integration and utilization of proven reproductive technologies.

Computer software applications for use in small ruminant production have been acquired, along with an ultrasound scanning system to facilitate pregnancy diagnosis. Work is also underway to implement a distance education model for program training and delivery.

Through the use of such technological approaches (including encouraging technology utilization by participating producers) increased contacts, reduced travel costs, enhanced record management and more efficient monitoring of animal health concerns can be realized.

A Small Ruminants Producers Questionnaire is presently being used to identify potential producer participants. The assessment has been an efficient tool in obtaining committed farmers desiring to make a progressive difference in the sheep and meat goat industry.

On farm demonstrations and field trials such as those conducted in Franklin County during this fiscal year have assisted in research designed to determine palatability of poultry litter when added to goats' rations. To date, poultry litter has been used in 25% - 40% of mixed rations fed to goats with an acceptable degree of palatability. Measures of up to 65% are desirable. The County Agent in Franklin County has also received a heifer international grant that will aid in the animal production goals of producers in that area.

2) ETP 224: Intensive Rotational Grazing Systems

Intensive Rotational Grazing Systems seeks to train Alabama cattle and sheep producers to manage pasture grazing for high production per acre, to manage animal property to minimize forage wastage, and to achieve good gains by growing animals. To support programming activities, two publications were developed and distributed: "The Use of Sheep Breeds Resistant to Internal Parasites" and "Grazing Systems." Data collected from ongoing farm activities was quite beneficial to the project leader/author in helping to write these publications from a practical viewpoint.

3) Urban Family Programs

(See activities described under ETP 610)

4) Environmental Programs

Urban Agents in the Birmingham and Huntsville metropolitan areas were actively involved in the System's radon and lead poisoning prevention efforts. Television programs, pamphlets, radio programs, and fact sheets provided thousands of face-to-face and non-face-to-face contacts.

C. ANNUAL CONFERENCES AND STATE EVENTS

1) The Urban Rural Interface Conference

The Urban-Rural Interface Conference was developed to focus on the importance of building working relationships with communities, organizations and agencies to serve diverse audiences through more balanced programming efforts. Conference activities are designed to educate participants on how to collaborate, build partnerships and establish coalitions to enhance and promote programs and services. The conference is conducted on the 3rd Thursday in April each year during Agricultural and Family and Consumer Sciences Week, and is co-sponsored by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and the School of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at AAMU.

Over 125 agency representatives, community leaders, students, university faculty and Extension educators were involved in the 1999 Urban/Rural Interface Conference. Seminar sessions provided opportunities for Extension Specialists/Educators and researchers to present their research and focus on the tie between research and Extension outreach while addressing the theme, "Educating Communities Through the Application of Research." Keynote speaker, Dr. Gladys Vaughn, National Program Leader for Human Nutrition Research, USDA/CSREES, discussed "The Role of Research in Helping Leaders to Build Communities."

2) 4-H State Congress

On alternating years, the State 4-H Congress event is hosted on the Alabama A&M University campus. This year's event was planned under the leadership of the Youth Development Specialist in the Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs Unit. On July 13, 1999 over 500 youth, future leaders, Extension staff, university faculty, and community volunteers gathered for events which culminated a year of involvement in 4-H experiential learning. The theme for the 1999 Congress was "Preparing Alabama's Youth for the Millennium." Mr. Eric Chester, educator, motivator and renowned speaker, delivered the keynote address at the opening ceremony.

The major thrust of the State Congress event was to provide 4-H youth opportunities for developing social and leadership skills; provide citizenship and education experiences that enhance problem-solving and decision making skills; provide opportunities for youth to participate in state-level competition; and to recognize and reward outstanding accomplishments.

The three-day schedule included competitions, educational workshops, tours, recreation and election of state officers. Educational workshops were also planned to enhance the leadership skills of the delegation of youth involved in the Alabama Civil Justice Foundation Leadership Institute.

Youth were recognized for their outstanding involvement and accomplishments in 4-H at the Awards Banquet held at the Von Braun Civic Center, Huntsville.

3) Kellogg Conference

Specialists, staff and County Agents with urban responsibilities supported activities to plan and implement the Kellogg Conference. Three hundred plus staff members, university faculty, out-of-state Extension administrators, other out-of-state officials, municipal representatives and other local, county and state leaders were in attendance. Funded by the Kellogg Foundation, the conference was designed to publicize the new unified Alabama Cooperative Extension System and showcase existing programs. Programming staff provided the necessary input to support the Communications Unit in developing brochures and exhibits that promoted the Urban Unit. During early fall of this year, open forums will be down-linked across the state to provide opportunities for constituents, sponsors, collaborating agencies, etc. "to more fully explore the unified System."

D. SATELLITE IN-SERVICE TRAININGS

1) Y2K In-Service

The Y2K in-service, a live satellite broadcast, offered compensatory measures to enhance the preparedness of urban resource limited individuals, families, and the general public. Additionally, the disabled and elderly received information to prepare them to maintain and insure operation of their life sustaining machines, medications and emergency lines of communication. Resource Development and Family Welfare Specialists/Educators sponsoring the in-service received training at the national workshop on "Y2K Conversion" held in Reno, Nevada. Resources used in the training were developed by the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, a cooperative program from the United States Department of Commerce, United States Department of Agriculture, and United States Small Business Administration. Participants were present for the live broadcast held in the Dawson Extension Building Auditorium. Other contacts benefited from the broadcast through downlink participation at the state's 67 county Extension offices.

2) Family Re-Union: Reinventing Family Policy

The Unit's Extension and Family Development Specialist coordinated the downlink of Vice President Gore's Family Re-union. Through satellite capabilities, several counties across the state were involved, and many participating agency representatives were present for the broadcast at the campus downlink.

Family Re-union is a series of annual conferences sponsored by the University of Minnesota's Children, Youth and Family Consortium and by Vanderbilt University's Child and Family Policy Center. Moderated by Vice President and Mrs. Gore, the conference is designed to bring together families and those who work with families to identify better ways of strengthening family life. An estimated 1,000 people gather at the Nashville, Tennessee site and thousands more around the country in community conversations at down link sites, through live cybercast and live or delayed broadcasts of the entire event. Family Re-Union promotes a dynamic and on-going policy development process that changes the way issues are perceived. Countless local programs, policies and new partnerships have been inspired by Family Re-Union.

E. OTHER STATE STAFF IN-SERVICE TRAININGS

1) Maptitude

Specialists/Educators in the Unit participated in in-service training on Maptitude. Maptitude is a full-featured GIS package that allows users to draw maps from computer stored geographic files. Interactive editing and drawing tools facilitate customized mapping to meet programming needs for quality, accurate and informative graphics.

2) Urban Update

"Making an Impact: An Urban Update", was conducted on November 19, 1998. Agents/staff with urban responsibilities and other System staff with an interest in the urban agenda and nontraditional programming information were in attendance. The activity was designed to provide information, approaches, impact data, etc. to insure that Agents remain current and informed on issues and concerns that may affect their programming in urban and nontraditional areas.

Dr. Preston Sides, Consultant with "Solutions for a Changing World," Dripping Springs, Texas, shared ideas on decision making, prioritizing, reaching the hard to reach and program success stories." Issues concerning "Hispanics in America from a Modern Perspective" were also discussed by Mrs. Sylvia Correa, AAMU professor and researcher with the U.S. Census on the Hispanic population in the U.S.

E. FUNDED PROGRAMS AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT:

1) "A Proposed Model for Training Urban Educators in the Agricultural Sciences and Home Economics"

The USDA funded grant proposal "Training Urban Educators in the Agricultural Sciences and Home Economics" identified the need for redesigning existing curricular within the School of Agricultural, Environmental Sciences and Home Economics at Alabama A&M University to better meet the needs of nontraditional students, particularly those defined by age differences, limited resources and those affected by Welfare Reform. Grant implementation represents a collaborative effort between the School of Agriculture and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System's, Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs Unit. Activities are being coordinated by the Urban Units' Curriculum Design Specialist.

Work initiated under this grant has resulted in significant strides towards designing and marketing degree programs that appeal to nontraditional audiences. Primary curricular differentiations that have been established include: 1) awarding course credit for prior learning related to the intended field of study, and 2) utilizing new nontraditional instructional modes including computer assisted distance learning, satellite training and video transfer. The project coordinator was instrumental in formalizing an agreement between Alabama A&M University and Thomas Edison State College, Trenton, New Jersey to award credit for experience based on the prior learning assessment model – the Thomas Edison's Office of Portfolio Assessment. The signing of the agreement between the Provosts of the two institutions resulted in Alabama A&M University's Standards committee approving the Nontraditional Degree Program for the School of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. The bachelor degrees that comprise the new Nontraditional Degree Program are: Forestry, Environmental Science, or Plant Science; Family and Consumer Sciences; Agribusiness; Food Science and Animal Science; and Urban Planning. The primary emphasis of the graduate curriculum is on the Master's degree programs in Family and Consumer Sciences and Agribusiness.

This project has significant implications for the advancement of urban and nontraditional programs across the state in that citizens emerging directly from targeted urban communities are being prepared to function as peer-trainers, educated professionals and knowledgeable leaders ready to address serious issues and concerns within their own communities.

2) Cooperative Development Initiative Grant (CDI)

Since 1994, the Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs Unit has worked in a multi-state programming relationship with the University of Wisconsin to conduct the Cooperative Development Initiative Project. This grant is coordinated by the Community Resource Development Specialist in the Urban Affairs Unit. The final phase of the CDI project was completed during the 1998-99 fiscal year and project director Dr. Anne Reynolds from the University of Wisconsin's Center for Cooperatives at Madison conducted the final evaluation on February 4, 1999.

The goal of the National Cooperative Development Initiative is:

"To enhance the capacity of rural-based colleges around the country to help create and sustain rural development through increased use of cooperatives."

While the program was funded with a rural focus, activities have continued subsequent to funding to support the clientele base and to expand the program by carrying the initiative to the state's urban communities. Several presentations were conducted with groups such as AAMU's Community Development Cooperation (Madison County), the Heifer Project International at Selma University and at Green and Sumter Counties, and the Small Farmers Outreach Project at AAMU (funded by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA).

3) Alabama Youth Assessment: Nutrition and Life Skills

The Agricultural Research Services has funded a one-year pilot grant to conduct community nutrition assessments and nutrition intervention, specifically targeting youth 10-16 years in urban Alabama. The Urban Unit's Health and Nutrition Specialists serves as the PI. The project aims to optimize health through nutrition education by improving nutrition knowledge and skills for making wise food choices. Pre-assessments are designed to determine food and nutrition knowledge of the targeted group. Subsequent training will be conducted in selected middle schools, community centers and churches with youth groups; and post-assessments will be used to determine the degree of behavioral changes relative to dietary selections.

4) Urban Tobacco Awareness Project U-TAP)

The Urban Tobacco Awareness Project U-TAP) is a National 4-H Council funded grant, designed to reduce and/or prevent tobacco usage by youth. The desire is to provide the state's estimated 150,000 urban youth, ages 10-14, with "positive" and "healthy" alternatives to environmentally negative influences. Project outreach strategies involve expanding current programming relationships through coalition building and coordination to maximize efforts in reducing the use of tobacco products. The project is co-directed by the Urban Agent in Montgomery County and the Health and Nutrition Specialist, Urban Unit.

6) Recruitment and Retention in the New Millennium: Family and Consumer Sciences; Faculty and Students Fostering a Vision of Change

Activities outlined in the proposal seek to increase the number of students in the food and agricultural sciences through intense career awareness programs, student mentoring, enhanced pre-professional activities, enhanced faculty/staff involvement in recruitment, and increased partnerships and collaborative efforts with agencies of USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES). The grant was co-authored by the Urban Unit's Family Life Specialist and the Family and Consumer Sciences' Unit Chair.

5) Training Food Handlers in Elderly Care Facilities Using the HAACP Approach

Funded by USDA, this grant will provide training activities designed to educate food handlers in elderly care facilities using the HAACP approach. The grant was authored by the Health and Nutrition Specialist in the Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs Unit.

F. PROGRAM MARKETING

A number of efforts were undertaken to enhance the marketing and promotion of urban and new, nontraditional programs. A marketing/video consultant was engaged to lend support to building a photo file to enhance publications, brochures, exhibits, etc. The consultant is also assisting with visually capturing more programming activities to support the development of promotional videos and Extension Team Project (ETP) review videos. The goal is to design quality printed materials and audio/visual pieces that will aid in showcasing programs and projects to build advocacy support, financial contributions and sponsorship; and to enhance the visibility of the urban programming focus across the state.

SUBMITTED BY

Jannie Carter, State Program Leader

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