Let's face it: certain community education topics are more user friendly than others and no one formula will apply for all groups. Community educators and stakeholders have taken the initiative to offer information which may not be readily accepted at first but with time and culturally sensitive measures, the dialogue can become more readily accepted. This has been my experience as a university and hospice professional in Nevada.

As a new University of Nevada Cooperative Extension faculty member and after years of learning how valuable health topics are sometimes myth-ridden and/or overwhelming to speak about depending on the audience, I have decided to address this issue through my programming. One example that comes to mind is a cultural issue with Native Americans. It is traditionally viewed as “inappropriate” to engage in such topics as end-of-life care and advance directives. Through a community coalition I participated in, the first Nevada conference addressing this very issue among Native American tribes was held. As a Buenos Aires native arriving in the U.S. at the age of seven, I understand the importance of showing respect for multicultural beliefs and practices. This has helped me to tailor my organization’s educational goals. These, and other methods, have proven helpful nationwide towards crafting the most difficult and complex of health education and ethics dialogues and ultimately benefit the multicultural patient-medical provider relationships.

It will be my privilege to share in these continued goals as the Aging and Health Policy Specialist for Cooperative Extension. In the arena of Trans-cultural Healthcare Ethics, and specifically as we have entered an era of increased cultural sensitivity and competency for healthcare education, may the dialogue continue involving more of our multicultural families. If you would like more information on Trans-cultural Healthcare Ethics and advance directives, please don’t hesitate to contact me at 702-257-5537 or romeroe@unce.unr.edu.
Grant Writing classes for 2010 announced

The *Nuts and Bolts of Grant Writing* will be offered on Thursday, February 18 and Wednesday, March 10, 2010. The one-day class session will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Lifelong Learning Center located at 8050 Paradise Road, Las Vegas, (I-215 and Windmill Lane).

During the day, non-profit and government organization participants will learn how to: develop a community needs assessment, set goals, visualize outcome objectives, create a working budget and write a budget narrative and much more.

The class instructor is Pamela Kahn Van Pelt, grant and resource specialist for Cooperative Extension. If you have completed the Nuts & Bolts class, Ms. Van Pelt will also be conducting an advanced grant writing class on Thursday, February 4, 2010.

Space is limited. Please register by calling Sandy Bean at 702-257-5502 or e-mail beans@unce.unr.edu. There is a $5 fee due the day of the class to cover the cost of materials.
Landscape Retrofit Classes

Learn how to convert your water-guzzling, water-wasting yards into less thirsty, water efficient, energy saving and attractive landscapes through University of Nevada Cooperative Extension’s landscape retrofit classes. You will be coached through the design process, creating your own design for building a new or redesigning an old landscape. Over 500 Las Vegas residents have completed the classes with outstanding results; some have been presented landscape design awards.

The eight-week class begins on February 1 and continues each Monday morning from 9 a.m. to Noon through March 22 at the Lifelong Learning Center located at 8050 Paradise Road, Las Vegas.

Class size is limited and there is a $50 fee per landscape. (The fee is waived if associated with the Master Gardener program.) For more information, please contact either the Master Gardener Help line at 257-5555, Bob Morris at morrisr@unce.unr.edu, or the instructor, Mel Hengen, at mojavemel@aol.com.

Basic Principles of Landscape Management Classes

The twelve Basic Principles of Landscape Management classes are targeted at landscape maintenance professionals who work at hotels, resorts, golf courses, parks and maintaining private residences. People who serve on HOA boards may also find these classes of interest as a conduit to better communication with landscape contractors.

The series began on January 25 and continues through April 19. Angela O’Callaghan, Ph.D., will teach classes on improving soils - critical to having healthy plants; and how to keep plants healthy through proper fertilization and weed control. M.L. Robinson will teach several classes focusing on how to keep plants healthy through proper pruning techniques, irrigation and pest detection. He will also teach his ever-popular class on palm trees.

For more information, please contact Colleen Grant at 702-257-5532 or e-mail grantc@unce.unr.edu.

If you received this newsletter in the mail and you have an e-mail address, consider sending your e-mail address to southern.news@unce.unr.edu so we can hold down the cost of mailing the newsletter! Be sure to include your snail-mail address so we can remove your name from our database. Thank you!

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Southern Area has offices and offers programming in Clark, Lincoln and Southern Nye counties. Office locations and phone number are:

- **Caliente 775-726-3109**
  360 Lincoln Street
  P.O. Box 728, 89008

- **Logandale 702-397-2604**
  1897 N. Moapa Valley Blvd.
  P.O. Box 126, 89021

- **Las Vegas 702-222-3130**
  8050 Paradise Road, 89123

- **Pahrump 775-727-5532**
  1651 E. Calvada Blvd., 89048
The Master Gardeners of Southern Nevada are busy bees. In 2009, the Las Vegas Help Desk answered 3,683 phone calls and e-mails on desert gardening topics. In addition, they taught classes or spoke to 82,356 people at community events. Each Master Gardener is required to donate at least 50 hours of volunteer community service per year to uphold his or her certification. Last year the Master Gardeners donated 34,375 hours – an average of 114 hours per volunteer! The Help Desk is a free service of Cooperative Extension and is staffed Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. You can also call the Master Gardener Help Desk at 702-257-5555 or e-mail lvmastergardeners@unce.unr.edu.

Master Gardener Richard Leifried answers questions at the Help Desk.