University of Nevada Cooperative Extension

Clark County, Nevada

2016 Program Highlights

January 1 to December 31, 2016

Cooperative Extension brings the University to residents

The University of Nevada Cooperative Extension conducts “educational, research, outreach and service programs pertaining to agriculture, community development, health and nutrition, horticulture, personal and family development and natural resources in both rural and urban communities of Nevada.”

Cooperative Extension is the outreach unit of the University of Nevada, Reno. We design and deliver community programs to residents of Clark County, Nevada with other agencies and volunteers. Cooperative Extension learns about the needs of our community and develops programs to meet them. We teach classes, hold workshops, sponsor seminars related to those needs and provide online information.

Cooperative Extension offers education, training and instruction in: Health & Nutrition; Children, Youth & Families; and Water, Horticulture, Economics & Environment.

Fiscal year 2016 Funding

Along with Federal, State and County funding, Cooperative Extension faculty secure grants to help fund programs and staff. In the 2016 calendar year, 14 grants were secured totaling $2,579,084 to support Clark County programming.

Some of the major grant funders were the USDA/NIFA (National Institute of Food and Agriculture); USDA/RMA (Risk Management Agency); Nevada DHHS/Welfare Division (pass-through funds from USDA/NIFA); NV Department of Early Learning and Development; NV Department of Education; Kellogg Foundation; United Way of S. Nevada.

Special points of interest:

- Over $2.5 million in grants were secured
- Over 41,500 newsletters were distributed
- Over 40,200 volunteer hours were recorded
- Over 30 programs are offered to residents of Clark County
4-H youth development

4-H is Cooperative Extension’s youth development flagship program.

Clark County’s 4-H clubs extend through the entire county including Mesquite, Logandale, Overton and Laughlin.

4-H provides educational strategies for youth and adults to work in partnership as they receive life-skills training.

During 2016, over 22,400 youth participated in clubs, camps and special interest/short term projects.

Overall 4-H club membership in Clark County is over 750 youth.

Career Edge

“Soft” skills, including leadership, teamwork, critical thinking, problem solving and decision-making, are considered most deficient in recent high school graduates. Career Edge is a workforce-readiness program to help meet the Family and Consumer Science Standards set for Nevada high school students, increasing teens’ “soft” skills, their ability to acquire their first jobs and their ability to work toward long-term career goals. The program is delivered twice a week for six weeks where teens work on skills such as completing job applications, building resumes, interviewing for jobs and creating a positive work ethic.

In 2016, 615 teens in 4 high schools, JAG program, City of Las Vegas and Nellis AFB were trained.

Partners in Parenting

Partners in Parenting 3 literacy programs (Family Storyteller, Fun To Play and Child Safety/Welfare) to help parents learn how to read to their children and to do fun literacy activities to prepare for school readiness.

During 2016, 468 families (555 adults and 506 children) were reached via Clark County School District schools, recreation centers, family/community centers, Head Start, indoor play centers and Henderson libraries.
Chefs for Kids ~ Pick a better snack™

Chefs for Kids/Pick a better snack™ is a joint venture of the American Culinary Federation Chefs of Las Vegas and Cooperative Extension. This program works to eliminate malnutrition and hunger through education and awareness. The nutrition education portion that Cooperative Extension educators administer targets student health and wellness across several levels: students, families and school staff.

Each month, a catered breakfast for the entire school is donated by one of the participating partner properties.

There were 13 participating schools’ 2nd and 3rd graders receiving nutrition education and taste tests in 2016.

The program staff also created High Fives for Health Facebook page.

Educator Cathy Baptista high-fiving students at Whitney Elementary School.
On Facebook, search @highfivesforhealth.

New programs addressing urban food insecurities

In 2016, new programs were developed to address food deserts, food insecurity and food systems.

FoodSpan covers three units beginning with meeting the food system; farmers, factories and food chains; and consumers and communities.

Healthy Food Systems PSE engages and supports individuals, communities, businesses, government and educational institutions to improve food systems in Clark County.

FoodSpan covers three units beginning with meeting the food system; farmers, factories and food chains; and consumers and communities.

Fruit & Vegetable Trading Cards will be used in schools participating in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. The cards provide bullet point education regarding specific fruits and vegetables. So far, 30 cards have been developed.

A QR code is available for teachers to access a survey about the effectiveness of the cards.

All 4 Kids: Healthy, Happy, Active, Fit®

The All 4 Kids Program encourages preschool children, from 3 to 5 years of age, to be Healthy, Happy, Active and Fit. Working in cooperation with children’s childcare teachers and parents, all participants are provided interactive experiences that promote healthful habits regarding physical activity, snacks, feeding cues and acceptance of self and others.

The school- and community-based programs reached 771 preschool children, 511 adults and 93 preschool teachers at child care and community centers and several CCSD schools.

At the annual Healthy Kids Festival held each September, 385 adults and 575 children participated in food tastings and physical activities including Zumba, soccer, dancing, and more! The 2017 event will be held on September 23 at xxx.
Laughlin programming

The 4-H program has 65 youth participating. 4-H adult volunteers leaders were recruited and trained. During the summer of 2016, 224 kids attended the summer camp program and 18 4-H members participated in the Nevada Public Lands Day.

Master Gardeners conducted monthly horticulture workshops. Six cinder block planters with cement foundations were created in the Community Gardens.

The Laughlin economy received a boost from the Laughlin High School Career & Jobs Program. Seventy-five junior and senior high school students attended an assembly. From the 75, 23 students participated in the job readiness instruction; five were hired for summer employment; 14 job shadowed; and seven were offered summer employment.

Master Gardeners

You can find certified Master Gardener volunteers working around the Demonstration and Test Gardens at Cooperative Extension’s Lifelong Learning Center or in one of over 35 community projects.

Residents of Clark County can visit the Master Gardener Help Desk Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. They welcome your problem plant, creepy bug or any other gardening issues.

Community Horticulture

Community Horticulture Education is the umbrella for the healing and community gardens; community classes; composting; recycling; and vegetable and fruity variety trials.

In 2016, 5 new gardens were established in Clark County totaling 30 with 14 of those in areas with food insecurity.