

To: All Extension Employees, Partners & Stakeholders
From: Joe Zublena
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Director, N.C. Cooperative Extension Service
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Subject: N.C. Cooperative Extension Service Vision Initiative Update

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Dear Stakeholders and Extension friends and employees

It is time to provide a brief update regarding the next steps in the Visioning Initiative. As always, timely updates and resources can be found on the Visioning Initiative website at www.ces.ncsu.edu/vision-initiative. We also write to congratulate the Visioning Team on achieving the charge given to them, and to extend our thanks for their dedicated service.

In our first team session in January, we focused on the question, "What do we and our stakeholders want the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service to be in the next century?" In the second session in February, we focused on what we need to do and put in place to achieve that ideal. These are not easy questions and there are no easy answers.

That being said, the Visioning Team met this assignment head?on. The dialogue in both sessions was dynamic and forward-thinking, innovative and strategic. This is just what we expected and needed from this work. These dedicated individuals worked collectively designing the future of the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service, and as charged, have submitted those proposals to the Extension Administration team.

So, where do we go from here? First, we are still in the research and design phase, and as such, no firm decisions have been made. We are on schedule to have a plan ready to share this spring. Extension leadership will be reviewing the proposals in the next weeks, evaluating how proposed changes align with the needs of North Carolinians, and working to determine what strategies we will implement and in what timeframe. As always, we welcome your thoughts and we will do our best to keep you informed of our progress.

One thing is for certain at this time: it is clear that we are on the path to positive transformation for the ongoing sustainability and success of NC Cooperative Extension. We appreciate the support that has been extended during this work, and we look forward to sharing more in the near future.

Best regards,
Joe Zublena, Mitzi Downing, Tom Melton, Sheri Schwab

c: NCSU Administration
CALs Faculty & Staff
External Stakeholders