

Justifying Involvement in International Activities to County Stakeholders

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We live in a global society in which there is easy movement of people and goods, and ready access to technology. Many issues that were once considered to be localized are now extending beyond county, state, and or national borders. Therefore, it's imperative for extension faculty to develop an understanding of issues of global concern, such as food security, gender issues, climate change, and youth development. However, this can be a hard sell to county administrators and other stakeholders who do not see the benefit of utilizing county and or state funds or time for county faculty to be professionally involved in international activities. The objective of this article is to provide assistance for county faculty to use in presenting a strong proposal for international extension engagement.

- Build a strong county program before considering involvement in international activities.
- Access the most recent U.S. Census and look at the demographic characteristics of your county and align your international activity to the demographic of interest.
- Research the country you intend to visit and determine what innovative programs are being conducted which you'd like to reproduce in your county.
- Actively participate in educational activities on your international travel.
- Share highlights of visit with stakeholders upon return home.