

Get Internationally Connected, Extension Professionals
Elaine Long Bailey
ESP Global Relations Committee Chair

Global Relations are important in all phases of life. Extension is no different, and ESP members, and all Extension Professionals, have some new tools to use to engage in problem-solving challenges in their back yards and beyond. Get social and learn about other people's adventures, experiences and aspirations by joining the Internationalizing Extension Facebook Group. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/IntExtCoP/> and "LIKE" the group for sharing information about opportunities to take your knowledge to the next level and serve the larger global community.

The Internationalizing Extension Facebook Group is Public, and is described as ..."Incorporating relevant global dynamics and cultural knowledge into extension's education, research and value to better respond to increasingly diverse and interdependent domestic and global needs." There are posts covering online trainings, Q & A about different geographic areas of the world, and highlights of experiences that Extension Professionals have in their work. In addition, there are announcements about upcoming projects, tools to facilitate global work and more. Be sure to check it out!

Via development of a new CoP (Community of Practice), eXtension is enhancing the worldwide connections of Extension Professionals. The Internationalizing Extension CoP provides resources on topics from educating local constituents about the value of International Extension to building skills for success in global development. Earlier CoP's were developed surrounding specific discipline areas, such as agricultural commodities or current issues like fire ants. This CoP is multi-disciplinary, and blends educational pursuits across diverse audiences, stateside and abroad. Further, the CoP provides a way to link Cooperative Extension Service Professionals to effectively collaborate in a global economy and to provide guidance as to how to effectively engage groups for such programs. Cross-cultural education is important when we work with diverse audiences. How to engage those groups and to effectively work with them prompts one to think differently and to draw on different skill sets. Go to http://www.extension.org/internationalizing_extension and become a CoP member today!

Thanks to the Internationalizing Extension Leadership Team, who have been instrumental in developing both the eXtension CoP and the Facebook Group. Members are: **Renee Pardello**, Assistant Dean, University of Minnesota Extension pard0017@umn.edu; **Andrea Bohn**, Manager, Modernizing Extension and Advisory Services, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign abohn@illinois.edu; **Amy Harder**, Associate Professor & Extension Specialist, Department of Agricultural Education and Communication, University of Florida, amharder@ufl.edu; **Mike McGirr**, Acting Director, Center for International Programs at USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, mmcgirr@nifa.usda.gov; **Denis Scott**, Extension Specialist, West Virginia University, denis.scott@mail.wvu.edu; and **Colleen Taugher**, International Research and Agricultural Development, Washington State University, colleent@wsu.edu. If you have specific questions about either resource, contact a member of the leadership team.