



**Your Key to Professional Excellence**

**25 Years of Service** — (recognizes ESP-Pi chapter members for their dedication to the mission of Extension who have reached this milestone).

- ◇ **Debra Botzek-Linn** started with Extension on September 8, 1986 as a County Agent and Instructor. From 2002-2004, Deb served as a County Extension Director. Since 2004 she has been employed as an Extension Educator Food Safety and currently has the rank of Associate Extension Professor.
- ◇ **Phyllis Onstad** was employed as an Extension Agent in Renville county between December 1974 and October 1976. She rejoined Extension as an Extension Educator in Winona County in 1987 and transitioned to her current role in 2001 as Extension Educator, Family Resource Management. Phyllis currently has the rank of Extension Professor.

**Early Career Service** — **Angela Gupta, Extension Educator in Forestry**

(recognizes the achievements of a rising young professional who has shown noteworthy enthusiasm, performance, and accomplishment during their first 10 years in Extension).

Angela joined Extension in 2004 and has been a member of ESP since 2009. She led one state chapter and one committee of two different professional organizations, represented Extension's natural resource professionals on EFCC, and Extension on the University Senate. She has been involved with the creation of two new programs: the Forest Pest First Detector program and the MN Women's Woodland Network. As a result of that work she's helped find Emerald Ash Borer in Minnesota, and helped woodland owners manage their forest land and prepare for EAB better. In 2010, she was promoted from assistant to associate professor.

**Mid-Career Service Award** — **Kim Asche, Extension Educator, Youth Development**

(given to an Extension professional that has exhibited leadership and excellence as an educator or administrator in state Extension program planning, delivery, and evaluation over their 10-20 years of services).

Kim has worked with Extension in two different program areas in two different states since 1992. She has provided leadership in MAEE, two different sections and is currently a member of the ESP-Pi Chapter Board. She has a passion for shaping the education of youth and their families specifically related to healthy living and contributed to this work through curriculum writing, teaching and service.

**Distinguished Service Recognition** — **Cindy Peterson, Extension Educator, Family Resource Management.**

(award is designed to pay the highest chapter tribute to an experienced Extension professional who has consistently exhibited continuing leadership and excellence in Extension program planning, delivery, and evaluation in program and/or administration over a career of 20 or more years).

Cindy's career has spanned over 34 years. As Extension employees we have benefited from her leadership as a committee member and/or officer of her section, MAEE, and ESP-Pi Chapter. After beginning her career as a home economist in McCloud County, her recent program leadership, teaching, scholarship and program management has focused on providing trustworthy education for informed financial decisions through programs like "Dollar Works" and the "Latino East African Financial Literacy Program."



**Continued Excellence Recognition — Kathleen Olson, Extension Educator, Family Relations**

(given to an experienced professional who has exhibited continued leadership, initiative and excellence in Extension and has received the DSA award in the past).

Kathy's Extension work consistently reflects program development efforts that start with quality needs assessment and result in creative and thorough program design. She has worked passionately for programs that reduce violence in families and teach parents about how to be a positive parent. She is currently involved in a project, *Partnering for School Success*, aimed to improve school success, especially for new Americans. She is especially talented at developing program partnerships to leverage funds and broaden the scope of program impact bringing in nearly half a million dollars in grant dollars for programming. Kathy has presented curricula training and workshops throughout Minnesota and nationally, co-authored journal articles, and been interviewed on numerous radio, TV, and print media, including US News & World Reports on parenting. She has volunteered and held multiple offices in NEAFCS, MCFR, MAEE and ESP.

**Visionary Leadership Award — Phyllis Onstad, Extension Educator, Family Resource Management**

(given in recognition of Extension professionals whose leadership has enabled Extension to anticipate a significant new opportunity and developed support to implement program organizational changes necessary to achieve success).

Phyllis Onstad is not daunted by the complexity of issues facing today's families and communities. Her leadership and engagement skills have resulted in sustainable programs with measurable positive outcomes including: Parent's Forever; MN Latino Financial Literacy Project; and, Recovery After Disaster: The Family Financial Toolkit. Two of these programs are being utilized nationally by Extension and other state and community partners.

**Administrative Leadership Award — David Werner, Director of Field Operations**

(gives recognition to an Extension professional who has shown noteworthy administrative enthusiasm, performance, and accomplishment during their Extension career related to meeting the needs and furthering the efforts of supervised faculty, staff and/or program).

Dave became a full time Extension administrator in 1996 after several years as an Extension agent/educator. His administrative leadership has been shaped by participation in NC NELD and LEAD and carried over in to his personal life as evidenced by his involvement on the school board and church council. Dave was instrumental in helping move Minnesota from a county based Extension model to a Regional model, helping design Extension's memorandum of agreement and establish regional offices. Dave has also designed several tools to streamline work including a financial reporting tool, financial grants tracking tool, a hiring authorization and tracking document, and a standard program fee agreement. He has helped reorganize several operational units reducing administrative needs so resources could be focused on programming.

**Retiree Service Recognition — Jeanne Markell**

(recognizes continuing contributions and outstanding service by retired Extension professionals).

Jeanne has been retired for 2 years from U of MN Extension. In retirement Jeanne has remained connected to Extension by serving as a Director on the Minnesota ESP board. She was pivotal in co-facilitating a statewide examination of the desired professional organization of the future for Minnesota Extension staff resulting in a proposed new structure in Minnesota. She has also been supportive of development efforts for Extension and has remained connected to the organization to promote it throughout the state. In her final Extension years, she served as the Associate Dean serving on the administrative leadership team transitioning Minnesota Extension to a regional system. She also lead change as the NACo Fellow in Washington DC.