



Accomplishments

2018

- The NUEL Executive Committee and Steering Committee continue to meet monthly.
 - NUEL meet twice face-to-face meetings (St. Louis, Missouri May 2018 and Raleigh, North Carolina December 2018). The remaining meetings were web-based.

As a result:

- NUEL delivered a workshop on urban Extension at the National Extension Directors Association (NEDA) meeting in October in Portland, Oregon. As part of this workshop, input was gathered from NEDA participants to inform and enhance NUEL's National Urban Extension Initiative Implementation Plan.
- NUEL developed a National Urban Extension Initiative Implementation Plan with specific goals and tasks. NUEL intends for this implementation plan to serve as a blueprint for NUEL's actions for the next three to five years to move the national, and state, Extension systems forward enhancing Extension's work in urban/metropolitan settings. The plan will be presented to ECOP for approval in early 2019.
- The NUEL Steering Committee members responsible for leading the efforts to build regional networks, or caucuses, around urban Extension programming in the five NUEL program focus areas had organized meetings of staff in all five regions. NUEL's five program focus areas are Strengthening Communities, Protecting the Environment, Improving our Health, Enriching Youth and Feeding our Future.
 - In August, the Southern and 1890 Regional Caucuses jointly hosted their second professional development conference in Chattanooga, Tennessee with over 90 attendees, 29 of which were from 1890 institutions. The conference attendees came from 19 institutions, representing 11 states. Oral presentations and posters focused on all five NUEL program areas.
 - The Northeast Region started meeting regularly and hosted a meeting in Connecticut on green infrastructure to bring together Extension professionals and researchers from across the region to develop a multi-state Hatch project. The funding proposal will be submitted in 2019.
 - The Western Region continued to hold web-based meetings bi-monthly. Usually about 10-15 staff participate, representing 7-10 states.
 - The North Central Region hosted its first caucus and networking meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, in May attended by about 60 Extension professionals representing all of the North Central states. The meeting focuses on connecting staff and beginning to build multi-state networks in three of the NUEL program focus areas – youth, food systems and community capacity – and a fourth track focused on urban Extension administration. Small multi-state teams were developed in all four areas. As of the end of 2018, two of them were moving forward with gathering information for potential collaborations around volunteerism and administrative issues.

- Also as a result of NUEL's regional program networking efforts, and in collaboration with the Western Center for Metropolitan Extension and Research, NUEL organized and hosted a national Green Infrastructure Summit that was held in Portland, Oregon attended by about 100 Extension professionals, researchers, and a wide variety of partners from five states – Oregon, Washington, New Jersey, North Carolina and Michigan. A follow-up meeting has been scheduled to follow the National Urban Extension Conference in May 2019 in Seattle, Washington.
- Work continued in NUEL's action teams. These teams', or committees', efforts are focused on tasks and issues that will lead to broad organizational change within Extension systems at the national or state level. Highlights of the action teams' work include:
 - NUEL's Professional Development Action Team, with a membership of about 25 people representing all five regions:
 - Completed surveying a sampling of Extension professionals for their professional development needs specifically related to their work in urban/metropolitan settings. The results of this survey will be presented at the JCEP leadership conference in February 2019.
 - In collaboration with JCEP, Extension professional associations, state Extension systems and eXtension, they began developing a framework for a national competency badging system for Extension professionals working in urban/metropolitan settings.
 - Worked with the NUEL Steering Committee and eXtension to secure an eXtension fellow and developed a job description that is focused on NUEL's professional development agenda. The position will be posted in early 2019.
 - NUEL's National Urban Extension Conference (NUEC) Action Team:
 - Worked with the NUEL Executive Committee, the regional Extension Director/Administrator associations, and the 2019 NUEC host university, Washington State University, to identify a nationally representative group of Extension professionals to act as the 2019 NUEC planning committee. The NUEC planning committee has worked throughout 2018 to plan and organize all aspects of the May 2019 NUEC to be held in Seattle, Washington.
 - Has worked throughout 2018 to support the efforts of the 2019 NUEC planning committee and began recruitment efforts amongst the North East Region states to identify a host university and site for the 2021 NUEC.
 - NUEL's Communications Action Team:
 - Worked with eXtension to develop a plan to move the hosting of the NUEL website from Rutgers to eXtension. The transition will occur in 2019.
 - NUEL's Advocacy and Engagement Action Team:
 - Developed a framework for orienting new members of the NUEL Steering Committee, and other Extension professionals wishing to engage with NUEL. The action team then compiled all relevant background materials for the orientation program.