

Extension's Mission

We teach, learn, lead and serve, connecting people with the University of Wisconsin, and engaging with them in transforming lives and communities.

Extension embodies the Wisconsin Idea by partnering to develop and connect the research and educational resources of UW-Madison with residents and communities to address local, statewide and national issues.



Extension

Extension's History

- 1904 UW President Charles Van Hise details the Wisconsin Idea, saying he'd "never be content until the beneficent influence of the university reaches every family in the state"
- 1912 First county agent, E. L. Luther, hired as a county agriculturist in Oneida County
 1914 - Smith-Lever Act formalized, first 4-H
- 1914 Smith-Lever Act formalized, first State, Program Leader appointed

History of Extension

Statewide Network

Extension has deep local ties that develop regional and statewide networks able to respond to emerging issues. Working in and with communities allows Extension to connect research and resources directly to affected populations and areas.



History of Extension

The Role of the Extension Committee

County Ordinance

The university extension committee shall be composed of at least five (5), but no more than nine (9), supervisor members appointed by the county board chairperson. At least two members of the university extension committee shall be members of the land conservation committee. The committee shall function as the agriculture and extension education committee in accordance with WI State Statute and within the limits of funding appropriated by the county board, shall have the powers set forth in said statute.

WI State Statute

A university extension program is authorized, under the direction and supervision of the county committee on agriculture and extension education, cooperating with the university extension of the University of Wisconsin, and within the limits of funds provided by the board and cooperating state and federal agencies, to make available the necessary facilities and conduct programs.



Community Development

- The Community Development Institute delivers educational programming that supports individuals, communities and organizations in realizing their fullest potential.
- With programs dedicated to building leadership capacity, With programs deucated to building leadership capacity, strategic planning, training local government officials, economic development and community food systems, our Institute promotes civic engagement and social responsibility and empowers citizens to become leaders of transformative change.





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Positive Youth Development

