Partners

The University of Idaho Extension Community Development Team, with faculty located in all corners of the state, focuses on leadership, business and economic development and community design. Co-chairs are Harriet Shaklee (hshaklee@uidaho.edu) and Kathee Tifft (ktifft@uidaho.edu). For more information about Extension programs in Community and Economic Development: http://cd.extension.uidaho.edu/.

The Idaho Rural Partnership (IRP) joins diverse public and private resources in innovative collaborations to strengthen communities and improve life in rural Idaho. IRP’s Idaho Community Review brings experts from across the state to small communities for three days to provide objective observations, recommendations and resources to help communities build capacity, engagement and the local economy. For more information: http://irp.idaho.gov.

The Center for Community Building to End Poverty, a collaborative partnership between University of Idaho Extension, Community Action Partnership and the Spirit Center at the Monastery of St. Gertrude, serves as a source of data and best practices regarding the impact of poverty and models for addressing it regionally. For more information: http://centertoendpoverty.org or contact Kathee Tifft (ktifft@uidaho.edu).

Costs and Community Responsibilities

Community costs for the training and facilitation services will vary depending on location and availability of Extension personnel and funding. For CCGA, communities are generally expected to pay most travel costs, but not the salaries of Extension faculty and staff. Additionally, communities are expected to recruit participants, as well as advertise workshops and meetings and coordinate venues and refreshments as needed. The Leadership to Make a Difference Institute (LMDI) has some additional staffing and materials costs, but in general, both CCGA and LMDI costs are kept as low as possible in order to make them available to very small communities with very small budgets.

University of Idaho Extension Leadership Development Programs

Community Coaching for Grassroots Action

Leadership to Make a Difference Institute

“Confront issues and challenges – not each Other.” — Suzanne Mayo Frindt

“Earn the right to be heard by listening to others. Seek to understand a situation before making judgments about it.” — John Maxwell

“If I have the belief that I can do it, I will surely acquire the capacity to do it, even if I may not have it at the beginning.” — Mahatma Gandhi

“Few things help an individual more than to place responsibility upon them and to let them know that you trust them.” — Booker T. Washington

“As we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.” — Marianne Williamson

Contact and Information

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http://cd.extension.uidaho.edu/leadership/
University of Idaho Extension: Partnering to Ignite, Coach and Sustain positive change in Idaho’s rural communities

Community Coaching for Grassroots Action

Community Coaching for Grassroots Action (CCGA) is designed to help communities build leadership capacity while developing and implementing a community vision. The program takes a “guide on the side” approach, with Extension faculty supporting community members as they identify their assets, create a vision, build agreed-upon strategies and develop the networks and good working relationships needed for progress toward prosperity for everyone.

CCGA has been effectively implemented in conjunction with the Idaho Community Review process (www.irp.idaho.gov/Home/Community_Review). The review creates a comprehensive inventory of community assets, focus areas for action and menu of strategies and resources to enhance community assets, focus areas for action and working relationships needed for progress toward prosperity for everyone.

UI Extension faculty members coach community leaders and action committees as they execute plans in the months following the Review. Extension personnel introduce leadership training mid-stream in the process as needed, in a “just-in-time” training model.

The CCGA process begins with an initial meeting to introduce the program and develop an outreach plan followed by a series of two weekend workshops (Friday night and Saturday morning, over the course of 1 – 2 months). Workshop sequence:

1. Creating a Community Vision
   Futures Game – Learn to think beyond immediate gains and identify investments in community that will reap long-term benefits.
   Building a Vision from Assets – Identifying community assets involves listing the obvious rivers, views, highways and buildings - but it also involves looking at what is working well in the community and the root causes of local successes. This helps the community distill the essence of the best of the community’s culture, people, enterprises and leadership and turn that into a vision and focus areas for action.

2. Creating Action Teams & Steering Committee
   This weekend workshop focuses on how to build effective teams and manage meetings and relationships to avoid needless conflict. Once action teams are formed, the group is led through the process of selecting a Steering Committee and identifying its roles and responsibilities.

From this point, teams will be meeting on their own but will come together regularly for a period of time in order to facilitate communication, enhance individual and team skills and sustain positive change.

Leadership Training Your Way: CCGA and the Leadership to Make a Difference Institute

Leadership to Make a Difference

UI Extension has partnered with the Center for Community Building to End Poverty to offer a three day, intensive leadership training program to engage individuals in planning, leading, and supporting intentional positive change needed for all members of a community to thrive. The program is designed to assist people in developing confidence in their own leadership abilities and the courage to take action addressing community issues through:

• Greater understanding of self, others and community,
• Strengthened skills for leading meetings, working with others, and dealing with conflict,
• Strategies for communicating, partnering and fundraising within communities, and
• Development of a personal leadership plan and strategies for implementing new ideas in current community work

CCGA Regular Meetings

UI Extension faculty will facilitate regular (as determined by the community) meetings for an indefinite period of time. When the community is ready to fly on their own, Extension will become an as-needed resource. Thirty minutes to an hour of each regular meeting will be devoted to skill development. Possible topics for mini-workshops may include (but are not limited to):

• Creating S.M.A.R.T Goals
• Facilitation Skills for Effective Meetings
• Economic Development: Understanding drivers for the local economy
• Healthy Main Streets: working towards a vibrant downtown business district.
• Writing Press Releases / Media
• Using Social Media to Support Community Activities

I suppose leadership at one time meant muscles; but today it means getting along with people. — Mahatma Gandhi