



NATIONAL AWARD  
FOR EXCELLENCE  
IN EXTENSION

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2018



## LESIA L. OESTERREICH

Family Life Extension State Specialist  
Human Sciences  
Iowa State University

Lesia Oesterreich serves as an extension human science specialist and program manager with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and is passionate about developing effective educational programs for rural and urban early childhood educators.

Her early career collaboration with the Midwest Child Care Research Consortium identified key deficiencies in the quality of Iowa child care. Oesterreich has secured more than \$8 million in extramural funding to strengthen early childhood programs. Her innovative programming ranges from entry-level health and safety training for new early childhood teachers to the development of professional credential programs for early childhood consultants. Her translation of research findings and outreach efforts contributed to the development of Iowa state-supported public preschool and the Iowa Quality Child Care Rating system.

Her most recent focus is on creating effective online training by leading a team of extension educators to develop user-friendly, online programs. These early childhood educational programs are accessed by more than 36,000 early childhood educators each year who teach an estimated 165,000 children annually. Follow-up evaluations and onsite assessments indicate that 88 percent of these individuals report or demonstrate new knowledge, skills, or program improvements. Evaluations show that teachers and caregivers significantly increase understanding in child development, early learning, supporting positive behavior, nutrition, and health and safety practices.

Nationally, Oesterreich has also served in leadership roles with Cooperative Extension's National Network for Child Care; Children, Youth, Families, Education Research Network; and eXtension Foundation.

She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from Texas Tech University.



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## 1890s REGION

### JASON P. DE KOFF

Associate Professor and Extension Specialist  
College of Agriculture  
Tennessee State University

Jason de Koff serves as an associate professor/Extension specialist and assistant Extension program leader in the College of Agriculture at Tennessee State University. He engages in Extension and research programs in agronomy and soil science with specialization in bioenergy crop production. He has developed a series of 12 peer-reviewed fact sheets related to bioenergy, including a bioenergy activity for youth that received an Educational Materials Award from the American Society of Agronomy.



Demonstrations of his mobile biodiesel trailer for farmers and youth have reached over 2,000 people across Tennessee and led to their increased knowledge and interest in this area. This project was featured in a Tennessee Department of Agriculture publication, on RFD-TV, and was a national finalist in the Search for Excellence in Crop Production by the National Association of County Agricultural Agents in 2016. In 2017, he was named “Communicator of the Year” by the Tennessee Association of Agricultural Agents and Specialists and also won the APLU Innovative Teaching Award.

de Koff provides leadership to Extension faculty within the College of Agriculture as well as numerous agricultural agents throughout Tennessee. He has directly secured more than \$650,000 in external funding to enhance his Extension programs, including new programs in soil health and drone technology.

de Koff earned his bachelor’s degree from Ithaca College, master’s from the University of California, Riverside, and Ph.D. from Purdue University.

## NORTH CENTRAL REGION

### JOE D. LUCK

Associate Professor and Precision  
Agriculture Engineer  
Biological Systems Engineering  
University of Nebraska

An associate professor and precision agriculture engineer in the Department of Biological Systems Engineering at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Joe D. Luck primarily works in extension and research and teaches a course on precision agriculture technologies and site-specific crop management strategies. Since 2013, he has led the Nebraska Extension Precision Agriculture Data Management workshops, which have provided hands-on training to more than 600 producers and agriculture professionals, affecting more than 4.5 million acres of crops spanning five states. Luck serves as lead engineer for Project SENSE (Sensors for Efficient Nitrogen Use and Stewardship of the Environment), an integrated extension/research project that promotes reactive nitrogen management with crop canopy sensors.



A 12-year member of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE), Luck has made significant leadership contributions within the ASABE Machinery Systems community. Luck was elected into the leadership of the North Central Extension and Research Association and in 2015, joined the Board of Directors for the Agricultural Data Coalition, an industry-wide consortium of groups committed to farmer-centric standards for agricultural data ownership and security.

Luck received the 2015 Omtvedt Innovation Team Award for Extension from the UNL Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources and 2017 Larry W. Turner Young Extension Professional Award from ASABE.

He earned his bachelor’s, master’s, and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Kentucky.

## NORTHEAST REGION

### MOLLY E. DONOVAN

State Specialist  
Community and Economic Development  
University of New Hampshire

Molly Donovan serves as a state specialist in community economic development with the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension. Her work centers on increasing the capacity of citizen volunteers and leaders to build resilient communities and a strong economy. This work includes revitalizing downtowns, retaining and growing business, enhancing quality of life, and creating a vision for communities. She specializes in community engagement—bringing everyone into local decision-making—as a way to strengthen ideas, make change, and build leadership.



Her area of expertise has been community development practice with a focus on community engagement. She developed and teaches in the Community Engagement Academy, designed to train a new generation of leaders in a broad array of engagement tools and a focus on under-represented audiences. She is an expert in community development practice including leadership development, needs assessment, engagement, action planning, and evaluation. She is working on revitalization efforts in New Hampshire's small downtowns. She connects University of New Hampshire students in community development work and has a passion for mentoring the next generation of community leaders. In 2018, she was awarded the University of New Hampshire Presidential Award of Excellence.

Donovan received a bachelor's degree from Canisius College and a master's degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo.

## SOUTHERN REGION

### R. DWAYNE ELMORE

State Extension Wildlife Specialist and Professor  
Wildlife Biology  
Oklahoma State University

Dwayne Elmore is a professor, wildlife extension specialist, and Bollenbach Chair in Wildlife Biology with the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service at Oklahoma State University. His primary focus areas are wildlife habitat management, prescribed fire, endangered species conservation, wildlife damage management, range management, grouse conservation, and youth education.



In addition to working directly through county educators, Elmore works with various stakeholder groups to provide technical assistance on land management issues. These stakeholder groups include private landowners, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Quail Forever, the National Wild Turkey Federation, The Nature Conservancy, and multiple state wildlife agencies.

Elmore's program can be characterized as collaborative, applied, and multidisciplinary. He has been successful at identifying stakeholder needs, designing research and Extension projects to address those needs, acquiring \$5.9 million in funding to carry out programs, and disseminating the results in more than 100 peer-reviewed and Extension outlets.

Elmore believes that as a member of the land-grant system he has an obligation to seamlessly integrate research and Extension activities. His programs are designed around stakeholder needs and have direct application to land management for Oklahoma and beyond.

Elmore received his bachelor's at the University of Tennessee, master's at Mississippi State University, and Ph.D. at Utah State University.



NATIONAL  
DIVERSITY IN  
EXTENSION  
AWARD

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2018



## RONALD B. COX, JR.

Associate Professor and State Specialist  
Human Development and Family Science  
Oklahoma State University

Ronald Cox, Jr. is an associate research professor and extension specialist at Oklahoma State University. Cox also serves as the George Kaiser Family Foundation Endowed Chair in Child and Family Resilience and as associate director of community engagement for the Center for Family Resilience in the College of Human Sciences.

Cox's research focuses on how environment, family, and individual characteristics interact to create risk and resilience factors among Latino immigrant adolescents and has led to the development and evaluation of the *¡Unidos Se Puede! (United We Can!)* program. *¡Unidos Se Puede!* has impacted approximately 500 families and has been shown to increase areas like parental involvement in school and youth academic achievement and self-efficacy, and to reduce negative behaviors like drug use.

To serve Latino families in Oklahoma, Cox also has gathered or translated more than 1,000 Spanish-language fact sheets and distributed them to social service agencies serving Latinos, launched a Spanish-speaking radio program that weekly reaches 20,000 listeners with research-based information, and helped to start a health fair for Spanish speakers that annually provides health screenings and advice to approximately 600 families.

With innovative ideas and high-quality research methods, Cox has received more than \$6 million in external funding, including more than \$2 million from the National Institutes of Health, \$3 million from the USDA/NIFA Children Youth and Families at Risk program, and \$500,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice.

Cox earned a bachelor's degree from Harding University, master's from the University of Louisiana, and Ph.D. from Michigan State University.

# ROLL OF RECIPIENTS

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## Excellence in Extension Awards (2007–2018)

### NATIONAL

Elizabeth L. Andress  
The University of Georgia, 2012

G. A. 'Art' Barnaby, Jr.  
Kansas State University, 2009

Barbara Chamberlin  
New Mexico State University, 2011

Jeffrey T. Edwards  
Oklahoma State University, 2013

Stephen D. Green  
Texas A&M University, 2016

Ronald J. Hustedde  
University of Kentucky, 2007

Robert L. Kallenbach  
University of Missouri, 2014

Lesia Oesterreich  
Iowa State University, 2018

Joe Outlaw  
Texas A&M University, 2015

Louie Rivers, Jr.  
Kentucky State University, 2017

Marilyn J. Smith  
University of Nevada, 2008

Alison Van Eenennaam  
University of California, Davis, 2010

### 1890s REGION

Fitzroy 'Roy' D. Bullock  
Tennessee State University, 2009

Kevin Crenshaw  
Alabama A&M University, 2012

Jason de Koff  
Tennessee State University, 2018

Henry English  
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, 2014

Karnita Golson-Garner  
Alabama A&M University, 2016

David Heikes  
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, 2010

Thelma Sanders-Hunter  
Tennessee State University, 2007

Marion F. Simon  
Kentucky State University, 2013

Claudette L. Smith  
North Carolina Agricultural and  
Technical State University, 2011

Nathan M. Stone  
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, 2008

Misty Blue-Terry  
North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State  
University, 2017

Virginie Zoumenou  
University of Maryland Eastern Shore, 2015

### NORTH CENTRAL REGION

William J. Angell  
University of Minnesota, 2009

Frederick P. Baxendale  
University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2007

Nozella L. Brown  
Kansas State University, 2016

John DeFrain  
University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2010

Kevin Erb  
University of Wisconsin–Extension, 2017

Rick Funston  
University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2014

Julie Garden-Robinson  
North Dakota State University, 2015

Kimberly A. Greder  
Iowa State University, 2013

Kathleen A. Lodi  
University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2011

Joe D. Luck  
University of Nebraska, 2018

Richard J. Rasby  
University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2008

Fred Whitford  
Purdue University, 2012



## Excellence in Extension Awards, continued

### NORTHEAST REGION

Chester Arnold  
University of Connecticut, 2009

Chet Arnold  
University of Connecticut, 2017

Elaine Bowen  
West Virginia University, 2013

Molly E. Donovan  
University of New Hampshire, 2018

Jerome L. Frecon  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, 2008

Elizabeth “Betsy” Greene  
University of Vermont, 2011

Walter E. Kee, Jr.  
University of Delaware, 2007

Chad Ripberger  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, 2010

Richard W. Taylor  
University of Delaware, 2016

Richard W. VanVranken  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, 2014

Changlu Wang  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, 2015

### SOUTHERN REGION

Stanley Culpepper  
The University of Georgia, 2016

Damona Doye  
Oklahoma State University, 2017

R. Dwayne Elmore  
Oklahoma State University, 2018

Clark D. Garland  
University of Tennessee, 2010

Denise M. Holston-West  
Louisiana State University, 2013

John S. Jacob  
Texas A&M University, 2014

Garry D. Lacefield  
University of Kentucky, 2008

Mark L. McFarland  
Texas A&M University, 2009

Derrell S. Peel  
Oklahoma State University, 2015

Nancy M. Porter  
Clemson University, 2007

Tom A. Vestal  
The Texas A&M University System, 2012

Lisa Whittlesey  
Texas A&M University, 2011

### WESTERN REGION

Michael Bondi  
Oregon State University, 2010

Mary E. Burrows  
Montana State University, 2012

Daniel L. Fagerlie  
Washington State University, 2009

Marsha A. Goetting  
Montana State University, 2017

Brian J. Higginbotham  
Utah State University, 2013

Dana Martin  
Oregon State University, 2015

Donald B. Meehan  
Washington State University, 2008

Terry Allan Messmer  
Utah State University, 2016

Marcia R. Ostrom  
Washington State University, 2007

Madeleine Sigman-Grant  
University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, 2014

Michael P. Vogel  
Montana State University, 2011

# ROLL OF RECIPIENTS

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## National Diversity in Extension Awards (2007–2018)

Cesar Asuaje  
University of Florida, 2014

Attitudes for Success Youth Leadership Program  
Oregon State University, 2017

Ronald B. Cox, Jr.  
Oklahoma State University, 2018

Susan Given-Seymour  
Northwest Indian College Cooperative  
Extension, 2013

Jeff G. Hart  
University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2007

Hector Mendiola  
Utah State University, 2009

University of Nevada, 2011

Rural Agricultural Improvement and  
Public Relations Project  
New Mexico State University Cooperative  
Extension Service, 2008

Texas Grow! Eat! Go! (TGEG) Program  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, 2015

The University of California Small Farm  
Program, 2010

UC ANR 4–H Youth Development Program  
IDI Qualified Administrators  
University of California, 2016

Michael P. Vogel  
Extension Tribal Housing & Health Program  
Montana State University, 2012

*S*cientists have become  
the bearers of the  
torch of discovery  
in our quest  
for knowledge.

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STEPHEN HAWKING

# UNIVERSITIES OF EXCELLENCE

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As recognized by the Excellence in Extension Awards

University of Nebraska–Lincoln (7)	University of Kentucky (2)
Texas A&M University (6)	Utah State University (2)
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey (5)	Clemson University (1)
University of Nevada, Reno (5)	Louisiana State University (1)
Oklahoma State University (4)	New Mexico State University (1)
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (4)	North Carolina A&T State University (2)
Montana State University (3)	North Dakota State University (1)
Tennessee State University (3)	Purdue University (1)
Washington State University (3)	University of California, Davis (1)
Alabama A&M University (2)	University of Florida (1)
Iowa State University (2)	University of Maryland Eastern Shore (1)
Kansas State University (2)	University of Minnesota (1)
Kentucky State University (2)	University of Missouri–Columbia (1)
Oregon State University (2)	University of New Hampshire (1)
University of Connecticut (2)	University of Tennessee (1)
University of Delaware (2)	University of Vermont (1)
The University of Georgia (2)	University of Wisconsin (1)
	West Virginia State University (1)

# UNIVERSITIES OF EXCELLENCE

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As recognized by the Diversity in Extension Award

University of California (4)	Oklahoma State University (1)
Oregon State University (3)	Purdue University (1)
Utah State University (3)	Texas A&M University (1)
Michigan State University (2)	University of Florida (1)
Mississippi State University (2)	University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign (1)
The Pennsylvania State University (2)	University of Maine (1)
Cornell University (1)	University of Minnesota (1)
Lincoln University (1)	University of Missouri (1)
Montana State University (1)	University of Nebraska (1)
New Mexico State University (1)	University of Nevada (1)
Northwest Indian College (1)	University of Wisconsin (1)

*( ) denotes number of recipients*