



Executive Director and Administrator Team National Responsibilities as of 7.21.2022

In Support of the [Extension Committee on Organization and Policy \(ECOP\)](#) and [Cooperative Extension Section](#)

The Executive Director and Administrator Team (EDA Team) works in support of the [ECOP 2020-2023 Strategic Directions](#) and [ECOP Chair’s Annual Action Plan](#). The seven-person team is made up of the full-time Executive Director and Assistant Director in the ECOP National Office at APLU in Washington, DC, plus 25 percent FTE of each of the five regional executive directors and administrators, including travel costs and other support. Expenses of the two staff in the ECOP National Office are paid by investments in national leadership through assessments to the 76 institutions in the Cooperative Extension Section of the APLU Board on Agriculture Assembly. Expenses of the regional executive directors and administrator are paid through regional Extension associations.

Meet the EDA Team:



Ron Brown, Executive Director
[Association of Southern Region Extension Directors](#)



Albert Essel, Executive Administrator
[Association of Extension Administrators](#)



Doreen Hauser-Lindstrom, Executive Director
[Western Extension Directors Association](#)

National Office - www.extension.org

TBD, Executive Director Cooperative Extension System/ECOP



Sandy Ruble, Assistant Director
Cooperative Extension System/ECOP
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Ali Mitchell, Executive Director
[Association of Northeast Extension Directors](#)



Robin Shepard, Executive Director
[North Central Cooperative Extension Association](#)

Responsibilities: The primary purpose of the EDA Team is strategic in nature, focusing on the co-creation of visibility, opportunity, and accountability for the Cooperative Extension System. Each member has a thorough understanding and passion for Extension national leadership and its benefit to state and local programming. Further, they have the depth of knowledge, political acuity, and dedicated time to provide thoughtful guidance to ECOP members and other directors/administrators who offer national leadership on a volunteer basis on top of complex administrative responsibilities at their respective institutions.

The EDA Team works to name directors/administrators to national leadership and advisory teams at the request of ECOP, USDA-NIFA, and selected partners. They also provide strategic consultation and staff support to those leading ECOP efforts at the national level.

Regarding ECOP responsibilities, the team has developed a listing of assignments with a primary and back-up member. The primary serves as the main contact for the effort and will be backed up as needed. Double staffing of ECOP efforts is not the general protocol. Due to the intensity of responsibility for some new efforts, some work requires two individuals until such time as an appropriate transition can be made to the primary/back-up approach.

In general, the EDA Team:

- Offers strategic guidance for priority work, promoting national coordination.
- Works in support of chairs of ECOP committees, task forces and working groups.
- Advises other EDA members on regional engagement on policy and process issues of concern to the national system/network.
- Recommends approaches for national initiatives, especially related to engagement with directors/administrators at regional levels.
- Communicates routinely to assure national initiatives are progressing appropriately.
- Attends to other responsibilities as outlined by the chair or lead for the effort.

Assignments: The assignments stated in the following 3 tables are revised at least annually by the Team and as needs change related to the [ECOP 2020-2023 Strategic Directions](#) and [ECOP Chair's Annual Action Plan](#). For patterns of reporting, refer to the [Organizational Chart](#) and [Operating Guidelines](#).

I. ECOP STANDING COMMITTEES, ACTIVITIES AND TASK FORCES

	Primary	Back-up
Executive Committee – ECOP Wendy Powers	National Office ED	All Team
*1994 Extension Relationship – ECOP Chair	National Office ED	
FRTEP	Shepard/Hauser-Lindstrom	
*ECOP Monday Minute Weekly Blog	National Office ED /Ruble	
*ECOP Presentations and Reports (EFNEP, PILD, Annual Report to CES, etc.)	National Office ED /Ruble	
*Extension Foundation Relationship (ECOP Appointed Liaison to BOD and NTAE Catalysts)	National Office ED	
*First Friday Events - Learning for Leaders Events – ECOP Chair	National Office ED /Ruble	
*National Impacts Database Committee – Trautman with ESCOP (Loring)	Brown	
*NEDA Planning Committee – ECOP Past-Chair Watkins	National Office ED /Ruble	Place-based Member
New ECOP, ECOP BLC and Liaison Member Orientations	National Office ED /Ruble	Relevant EDA Member
Professional Development Committee – John Lawrence	Essel	Shepard
Excellence in Extension National and Regional Awards <i>Note – Ruble point of contact for Awards Process. Essel point of contact for national nominations review.</i>	Essel	
Orientations for the Cooperative Extension Section Members (NEDA/Other)	Essel	Shepard
Program Committee – Brent Hales	Brown	Mitchell
Program Action Team Leadership Diversity Award <i>Note – Ruble point of contact for Awards Process. Brown point of contact for national nominations review.</i>	Brown	
NUEL – Hales	Brown	
*Budget and Legislative Committee – Jon Boren	National Office ED	All Team Members
Advocacy and Education Toolkit (in collaboration with PATs) 2023 Farm Bill Working Group-including Nutrition WG BLC Subcommittee on 4-H	Hauser-Lindstrom	
4-H Leadership Committee – Stephenson/Diaz/Jones	Hauser-Lindstrom	National Office ED
National 4-H Council BLC Subcommittee on 4-H		

Continue reading to view APLU / BAA and Partnering Entities assignment of responsibility.

II. APLU & BOARD OF AGRICULTURE ASSEMBLY (BAA)

	Primary	Back-up
* APLU Office of Economic Development and Community Engagement	National Office ED	Shepard
APLU/NIFA/EDAs Update Meetings (formerly NMCC) – Steele	National Office ED	All Team Members
Board on Human Sciences – Janet Fox	National Office ED	Mitchell/Rennekamp (HITF)
Budget and Advocacy Committee (BAC) – Jon Boren & 1890 Liaison	National Office ED /Essel	
CARET – Wenham	National Office ED	
Committee on Legislation and Policy (CLP) – Rich Bonanno & 1890 Liaison	National Office ED	All Team Members
*Communications & Marketing Committee –	National Office ED	Essel
Policy Board of Directors (PBD) – Michelle Rodgers and Alternate TBD	National Office ED	

III. PARTNERING ENTITIES

	Primary	Back-up
ECOP Liaisons to Other Groups	National Office ED	
ESCOP – Durgan	National Office ED	
ESCOP Diversity Committee – Raison	National Office ED	
ESCOP Science and Technology Committee – Powers	National Office ED	
ESCOP NRSP- Review Committee – Schmitt	National Office ED	
Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) – Gaffney	Hauser-Lindstrom	
Joint Council of Extension Professionals and PILD – Petty	Mitchell	
<i>Journal of Extension</i> –Dobbins	National Office ED	
National Integrated Pest Management Coordinating Committee – Lawrence	Shepard	
NCFAR Board – Bonanno	National Office ED /Ruble	
NCFAR Research and Outreach Committee	National Office ED /Ruble	
Regional Rural Development Centers	Brown	
Extension International Committee – Durgan (UMN designee Vreyens)	National Office ED	
Aspirational Partnerships - Current and/or Aspirational as they relate to ECOP 2020-2023 Strategic Directions and ECOP Chair's Annual Action Plan		
Engagement Scholarship Consortium (awareness)	National Office ED	
Foundation of Food and Agriculture (FFAR)	National Office ED	
National Academy of Science (NAS)-Powers	National Office ED	
*National Association of Counties (NACo)	National Office ED	

		Primary	Back-up
National Association of State Depts. of Ag (NASDA)		National Office ED	
National Extension and Research Administrative Officers Conference Planning Committee (NERAOC) – Eubanks		National Office ED	
National Science Foundation (NSF) (awareness)		National Office ED	
Support of Agricultural Research (SoAR)		National Office ED	
US Department of Energy (DOE)		Shepard	
USDA Rural Development		National Office ED	
Special/Targeted Partnerships by CES Priority Areas			
USDA/NIFA EXF	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion-Richardson (?)	National Office ED	
USDA/NIFA EXF USDA/NRCS USDA Climate Hubs	Climate Mitigation, Resiliency, and Adaptation-Henderson	Shepard Regional Leads	
USDA/NIFA EXF Commerce/Labor	Economic and Workforce Development-Lyles	National Office ED	
USDA/NIFA EXF HHS/CDC	Health Equity and Well-Being-Rennekamp	Mitchell	
USDA/NIFA National 4-H Council	4-H Positive Youth Development-Jones/Boren	Hauser-Lindstrom	
USDA/NIFA EXF	Broadband Access and Digital Skills-Welborn	National Office ED	
USDA/NIFA EXF	Urban Programs – Bill Miller	Brown	
USDA/NIFA EXF USDA/FNS Food Trust	Community Nutrition Education-ECOP Nutrition Program WG-Abbott/Morris/Bonanno	National Office ED	Essel/Brown, others as appropriate