

JOB SKILLS AND CAREERS

As part of The Ohio State University, Ohio State University Extension works with Ohioans young and old to provide job training, workforce skills and education to help residents statewide attain new jobs, retain current jobs or prepare for professional licensing requirements. From offering 4-H leadership and job skills programs to teaching agriculture in urban centers to helping farmers and pesticide applicators meet educational requirements for new licenses or recertifications, the goal is the same: keep Ohioans working.

OHIO 4-H CAMP COUNSELORS ARE PREPARED TO WORK

What makes a good camp counselor? Strong leadership, problem-solving, and communication and teamwork skills, among others. These are just a few of the competencies that Ohio 4-H



Natalyn Landis, 4-H camp counselor

camp counselors ages 14–18 are taught through OSU Extension's Making eXtreme Counselors state workshops. They then put this training into action as counselors at 4-H camps throughout the state.

Through the training, Extension empowers teens to develop skills that prepare them for the workforce. At the same time, Extension helps shape the positive development of Ohio youths ages 8–13 who attend 4-H camps statewide.

Some 107 teens from 29 Ohio counties were trained as 4-H camp counselors last year through the program, which focuses on teaching skills they can use in the planning, programming and teaching process at their county 4-H camps. The training opportunity is open to teens in all 88 counties.

Skills taught during the training include responsibility, confidence, teamwork, public speaking, cooperation, customer service, accountability and respect for others. Ninety-two percent of participants say they are better counselors because they attended the training, while

96 percent say they have utilized skills gained from the training in their camping experience. And 97 percent of participants believe the training they received will also help them get a job.

More: go.osu.edu/campcounselor

GROWING URBAN FARMERS

OSU Extension is working to train new urban farmers.

In less than two years, the new Ohio Master Urban Farmer program has trained 180 people in Toledo and Columbus to become food and crop producers within

city limits. The program teaches participants how to produce and market food in urban areas. Participants learn how to choose a farm enterprise, how to choose a site, and how to soil-test for urban food production.

The overall goal is to provide urban dwellers who want to get into the food and crop production industry with



Anisa Ahmad, Ohio Master Urban Farmer program



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a basic understanding of how to create or expand agriculture-related business opportunities. The program also focuses on economic development, food insecurity, and environmental and community redevelopment in urban areas.

Program graduates receive free assistance to help secure the land, tools, seeds and other resources needed to start or expand a successful growing venture.

The program is working; 45 percent of participants say they plan to start a new food-based business or enterprise, and 21 percent plan to increase their family's income based on what they've learned. Further, 84 percent say they plan to produce safe, high-quality foods. And in two years, the number of urban farms within Columbus has grown from five to 15.

The program is expanding to include Dayton and Youngstown, and a similar program is already offered in Cleveland.

More: go.osu.edu/urbanagfranklin

PESTICIDE SAFETY EDUCATION KEEPS MORE OHIOANS WORKING

Each year, OSU Extension offers training in partnership with the Ohio Department of Agriculture to pesticide applicators so they can become certified or earn recertification credits to renew their pesticide licenses. This work is done to keep the environment safe as well as Ohio homes, businesses and crops.

Extension's Ohio Pesticide Safety Education program provides training, education and outreach to pesticide applicators about the safe, effective and legal use of pesticides. The program works with farmers, businesses and public agencies to protect human health and the environment, and it serves as a critical part of job training and business growth in Ohio.

Licensed applicators need the recertification training to learn about new pesticide application alternatives



and methods, new products to control pests, and new pesticide regulations. The program focuses on the responsible use of pesticides while promoting the health of the public and the environment.

In the past year, the training included 400 new commercial pesticide applicators; 3,400 current applicators who attended commercial recertification conferences offered in five locations in Ohio; and 5,000 people who attended recertification programs for private pesticide applicators in multiple Ohio counties.

More: pested.osu.edu

ENGAGED OHIOANS, VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

Engaging Ohioans and helping build and maintain vibrant communities includes bringing economic development to areas of the state that face challenging situations such as high poverty rates and low employment rates. Ohio State University Extension empowers Ohio communities to create new businesses, bringing new jobs to residents as a result of job training, technical assistance and investment dollars to increase economic productivity.

CREATING NEW JOBS AND BUSINESSES

According to the Appalachian Regional Commission, residents in Appalachian Ohio and West Virginia experienced 8.9 and 7.2 percent unemployment, respectively, from 2011 through 2013, with a per-capita income in 2013 of \$24,855 and \$26,020, respectively, and a three-year poverty rate of 17.6 and 17.9 percent, respectively.

OSU Extension is working to increase economic productivity and job and business development in the region through its Ohio Cooperative Development Center, housed at The Ohio State University South Centers in Piketon.

During the past five years, the center has provided more than 2,900 hours of technical assistance and has provided expertise to help in the formation of

35 cooperatives and other business entities in a variety of industries. Creation of these cooperatives and businesses has resulted in an estimated 194 new and 229 retained jobs. It has also resulted in the investment of \$72,000 in seed grants.

More: southcenters.osu.edu/cooperatives

SHALE BRINGS 52,000 JOBS TO EASTERN OHIO

As shale energy development took hold in Ohio, it was unclear precisely what the impacts would be. To find out, OSU Extension worked with four regional Economic Development Administration (EDA) districts of the U.S. Department of Commerce, representing 25 counties in eastern Ohio.

The group's 2016 report analyzed trends from 2010 to 2014. The study indicated that

shale development benefited five industrial sectors the most: energy; chemicals and chemical-based products; forest and wood products; metals manufacturing; and machinery manufacturing. In fact, the metals and machinery manufacturing sectors alone accounted for a net increase of 52,000 jobs.

The analysis further showed that 90 percent of job creation in the five sectors occurred as a result of regional influences rather than national economic trends. The EDA districts are using the findings to develop strategies to diversify their economies and sustain growth.

The group is continuing to track information and help determine regional needs in areas such as workforce training and education.