

Program Leadership Network

Since initial formation two years ago PLN has focused on increasing multistate resource development. During this period Linda Kay Benning has also forged relationships with the 4-H, FCS, ANR and CRED program leaders groups, respectively. Concurrently NEED has supported multistate program development via targeted and director led initiatives (health; obesity; food systems).

The PLN directors group (Woodrum, Dillard, Schrader) recommend the following steps to strengthen the resource development capacity of PLN:

Facilitate professional development for faculty and program leaders via periodic webinars.

Potential topics include:

- Successful grant writing
- Targeted presentations on NIFA grants
- Proposal development (e.g. Marty Draper)
- Innovative approaches to development
- Directors perspective on “Innovator’s dilemma” discussion

Strengthen NEED role in facilitating development of competitive project proposals

- Continue to encourage directors to initiate and serve as liaison to project teams (e.g. Health, Obesity, Food Systems)
- Increase communications between NEED and program leaders
 - Directors participating in leaders groups periodically report back to NEED
 - Program Leader group chairs periodically report to NEED
 - NEED agenda routinely includes “PLN” item (similar to ECOP committees) in order to facilitate communications

Next Steps

- Discussion with program leader chairs
- Series of webinars focused on resource development (see above)

NEED Action Requested

- Feedback/endorsement

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Planning Committee Membership

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