Human Development Outreach and Extension -
Extension Technology Support Project

Summary

Human Development (HD) outreach and extension programs are dedicated to the dissemination, application, and translation of research-based knowledge to solve real-world problems in our communities. Leadership is leveraging the Internet to make the lessons from faculty research more accessible to Cooperative Extension Educators and other professionals in the field. Just awarded $90,000 for an additional three years, this initiative began in 2006 through a new grant, “Using Information Technology to Meet the Needs of the Community through Human Development Extension: Partnerships for Progress.”

Issue

Extension educators are highly skilled professionals with strong backgrounds in program planning and delivery. They need to remain at the cutting edge of their subject-matter areas to provide the most current and effective education to consumers in their communities and throughout New York State.

Response

The technology project is developing downloadable materials and presentations based on current research in the Department of Human Development. The materials are designed for use by Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Educators and other professionals in the field. Topics include child development and the physical environment; teen risky decision making; children's memory and the law; developmental dyslexia; autism; language acquisition; and much more. Guidance is provided by an advisory council of CCE educators and the project actively involves students and is cultivating opportunities for the integration of teaching, research and extension. The project aims to:

1. Make materials and presentations based on current research in the Department of Human Development available to CCE educators and other professionals, community leaders, policy makers, students, and families, and others in New York State and around the world;

2. Develop increased knowledge and strengthen human development programming in CCE associations through research summaries and current thinking on theory and practice; and

3. Build research-community partnerships to systematically translate research findings into the development of innovative interventions that may ultimately improve real-world practices as well as inform basic research.

Outcome

The accomplishments of the project include producing: 6 issues of the new HD outreach and extension newsletter, Human Development Today e-News; 12 streaming video presentations that bring research by leaders in the field directly to educators, policy makers, and the general public; and 9 new outreach publications that make the results of research and
their application to practice and policy readily accessible.

These new resources are available for downloading from the recently created HD Outreach & Extension website for free. As a result of these successes, collaboration has increased, and Human Development’s relationships within the College of Human Ecology, Cornell University, and with the community have been enhanced. As new projects are undertaken involving research-community partnerships, multiple grant opportunities that will build directly on these accomplishments are anticipated.

- Human Development Outreach and Extension website- www.human.cornell.edu/che/HD/Outreach_extension/index.cfm
- Human Development Outreach and Extension publication series that highlights findings from faculty research and how these lessons can be applied www.human.cornell.edu/che/HD/Outreach_extension/publications.cfm

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