



## EXTENSION COUNCIL PDC ELECTION

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# VOTER'S GUIDE

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Help us to elect our next group of  
Program Development Committee  
members who work to identify educational  
resources and programming to address local  
needs.

**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension

Sedgwick County

# WHAT DOES A PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEMBER DO?

## Purpose

Program Development Committee (PDC) members work together with extension agents to develop local programming.

## Responsibilities

Working with agents, PDC members understand and promote the mission of K-State Research and Extension and serve their communities by completing the following tasks:

- Assess needs and issues of agricultural producers, communities, families, and youth.
- Identify new local audiences and develop a proactive plan to expand the scope of extension programming.
- Use K-State Research and Extension resources to meet local programming needs.
- Develop program action plans to address community needs and submit those plans to the extension board and area director for review and approval.
- Implement, participate in, and evaluate extension programs.
- Promote K-State Research and Extension program successes and impacts.

## Qualifications

- At least 18 years old and a resident of the county in which the PDC is represented.
- Interested in working within the philosophy and mission of K-State Research and Extension.
- Willing to work closely with the local extension agent and other members of the PDC.
- Sincere interest in improving the quality of life for community residents.

## Time Required

A PDC member serves a two-year term and are expected to participate in PDC meetings scheduled throughout the year.



# 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

## LAWANDA DESHAZER



I am currently employed by the Greater Wichita YMCA, and I serve as the Senior Program Director for the Wichita Collective Impact (program). The goal of the program is to increase equity in 67214 zip code by transforming education and workforce development. Education enhancement overreaching goal is to help achieve third grade reading levels by the third grade. I am charged with helping to provide resources that will remove barriers, in the hopes that parents can focus on being able to help their children be successful. As a long time resident of Wichita, I was always familiar with the Extensions Office, but this summer I had the pleasure of working directly with Extensions. I organized a summer program in which we gave students a jump start on traditional learning and exposed them to non-traditional learning as well. The Extension office provide an opportunity for kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade students to be exposed to beginning coding. The program was amazing and youth enjoyed it tremendously. And although it was not provided by the extensions office, our youth were also exposed to horticulture and I know that moving forward we can get those skills from Extensions.

What are your experiences with adult and/or youth educational programs, including those provided by K-State Research and Extension?

I have extensive experience working with youth and adult. I have served as the Advisor for the NAACP Youth Council for six years. During that time, the youth have gone to City Council meetings, and to the State Capital. They have learned how to effectively advocate on behalf of issues they deem important; they have held voter registration drives and were able to articulate the importance of voting. I have served as the Cheer Director for the local team, The Wichita Golden Bulldogs. With the girls, we have taught them to be ladies first and cheerleaders second. We emphasize hygiene, table manners, appearance, language skills, anger management... anything we think that will help them be productive citizens. I have mentored at the middle school level, at Hadley elementary I visited the school twice a week, checked grades, talked through any issues and met with teachers if there was a case in which we were having issues. With my current job, I will be working more with adults, providing parenting classes, ESOL, and technology classes.

What goals do you envision for Extension?

With the experience that I just had with Extensions, it is painfully clear that there is a segment of the population that is not familiar with all the programs that Extensions offer. I hope that we can find avenues to expose these programs to that population. We know that food desserts exist in Wichita, what better program than the extensions to teach holistically about food: horticulture (growing your own food), eating healthy and nutritiously, helping families to do projects together and so much more! I am excited about the possibilities of helping to grow current programs with new audiences.



# 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

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**MEL HUSSEY**

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Retired geologist and teacher/coach. Current community volunteer, CASA of Sedgwick County, Reality U, financial literacy for the Pando Initiative. Owner of a farm in northwest Kansas.

What are your experiences with adult and/or youth educational programs, including those provided by K-State Research and Extension?

I work with middle school and high school students sharing financial literacy. Served as a 4-H judge in geology at the Sedgwick County Fair for several years and observed State Fair judges. Finally, I have served on the 4-H PDC for one term, I am going for my second term in 2024. I have also served on the Extension Council and Foundation Boards as a member-at-large and most recently, as Board Chair.

What goals do you envision for Extension?

To help grow awareness of Extension in our community and promote success of programming in 4-H.

# 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

## COREY LYONS



I work with the City of Wichita as the center director at McAdams Recreation Center. During my 6 years working in park and rec I have worked with the extension office to have classes for summer camps. Most of the kids that come to camp are low income and the extension office teaches them skills that wouldn't receive at home. I am also a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity so one of our key purposes is giving back to the community and being a leader.

What are your experiences with adult and/or youth educational programs, including those provided by K-State Research and Extension?

As a center director I develop classes for fall, winter, and spring. We offer a variety of classes from fitness to sports. The first time I heard of programming that the K-State Extension offered was your mowing class. I worked at Lynette Woodard at the time and helped set up. The turnout for the event was amazing and the kids really loved learning from the professionals that were speaking. I have served on the Extension Council and Foundation Boards as a member-at-large and most recently, as Board Vice-chair.

What goals do you envision for Extension?

The goals I see for the extension office is having more free classes in areas where kids wouldn't usually get the chance. Also working with every rec center in Wichita to offer programming because each area is different.



# AGRICULTURE/HORTICULTURE

## PEGGY GRIFFITH



First and foremost, I love gardening! I've been a Master Gardner for 20 years. I enjoyed learning and working with flowers so much that I started my own business, Ladybug Landscaping, 17 years ago. Starting with one customer I grew it to over 100 repetitive landscaping customers and have just recently sold it to Johnsons Legacy Landscaping. I have hands on experience and an extensive knowledge of the region's plants and flowers. I now find myself with extra time on my hands and would really enjoy being an active member of PDC. I feel I would be a valued member because I truly enjoy teaching and helping fellow gardeners with their special gardening challenges.

What are your experiences with adult and/or youth educational programs, including those provided by K-State Research and Extension?

I have been very active in the local gardening community. For many years I spoke at the Wichita Garden Show. I've also taught at WSU continuing ed classes, Sedgwick County Extension Service and several Master Gardner events. I really enjoy speaking and teaching others about gardening. I find it very rewarding and would like to do more of it.

What goals do you envision for Extension?

I feel the Extension Service has a significant opportunity to grow. As the baby boomer generation retires, they need something to do. Gardening is the perfect solution for many of them. I would like to see the Extension add additional outreach programs and increase its overall public awareness of the services they offer to the public. I feel we need more volunteer programs so more people can get involved. Basically, I believe the more people involved the better.

# AGRICULTURE/HORTICULTURE

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**KARLA JAHN**

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I'm from a farming family in Harper County, Ks and still own part of that farm. I moved to Wichita in 1973 and here I met my husband and raised our two sons. I retired in 2015 but have stayed busy with volunteer work and like traveling to see the great outdoors.

What are your experiences with adult and/or youth educational programs, including those provided by K-State Research and Extension?

I was a member of the first Master Composter class of 2001 and became a Master Gardener in 2003. That involvement and sharing knowledge with these two groups has been priceless to me. I like talking to both young and old about what I've learned new each year while working in the Extension demonstration garden and other areas on the grounds. I have served on the Ag/Hort PDC for one term, I am going for my second term in 2024. I have also served on the Extension Council and Foundation Boards as a member-at-large.

What goals do you envision for Extension?

I see our future with the Extension is to bring as much knowledge to others about what grows best here in order to enrich and beautify our community.



# AGRICULTURE/HORTICULTURE

## BROCK NEVILLE



My name is Brock Neville. I farm in Sedgwick County around the Colwich area with my dad and brother. After going to Kansas State for agronomy, I came back to the farm where we are 50/50 dryland and irrigated. We grow corn, soybeans, wheat as well as have a cow calf operation. I have three kids with my wife Hannah and live in Colwich. I have very limited involvement in extension programs outside of the agriculture side of things and 4-H programs.

What are your experiences with adult and/or youth educational programs, including those provided by K-State Research and Extension?

My experiences involving programs are mainly centered on the agriculture extension programs. I always try to attend the information meetings put on throughout the winter months and the county wheat plot tour. I grew up involved in the 4-H program and enjoyed it a great deal.

What goals do you envision for Extension?

The goals I would like to envision from extension would be more knowledge on the programs offered. I know there are a ton of opportunities out there and a lot of knowledge. I feel many people just do not know about the opportunities and resources available to help them so close to home.



# AGRICULTURE/HORTICULTURE

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## ALAN VENJOHN

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I grew up on a farm near Andale, Kansas where my interest in agriculture began. I graduated from K-State in 2016 with a bachelor's degree in Agronomy. After graduation, I started working as a crop consultant and have been scouting fields in Sedgwick County for the past eight years. Through this job I have been helping growers increase productivity, efficiency, and profitability across their cropping systems in the most economical and environmentally responsible manner.

What are your experiences with adult and/or youth educational programs, including those provided by K-State Research and Extension?

My involvement with K-State Extension began at a young age through 4-H. While in 4-H, I was involved in showing livestock, woodworking, and electricity projects. As an adult, the information provided by K-State Research and Extension has helped me accomplish my goals in my career by keeping me updated on industry trends in agronomy.

What goals do you envision for Extension?

The goals that I have for K-State Research and Extension is to continue to educate the public about agriculture. By interacting with farmers, agronomy retailers, and other crop consultants I have gathered what demand there is that KSRE can help with. Examples are research trials and extension meetings that will educate the public about topics in agronomy. I would like to work with members of the Public Development Committee on how to rightfully achieve these goals.

# COMMUNITY VITALITY

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## SUSAN HUSSEY

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Retired teacher and administrator from USD 259, retired liaison from Wichita State University. Graduate of Leadership Wichita. Served in leadership roles on boards for CASA of Sedgwick County, The Pando Initiative, and currently Assistance Leagues of Wichita. I have served on the Community Vitality PDC for one term (two years) and as Treasurer of the Extension Council and Foundation Boards.

What are your experiences with adult and/or youth educational programs, including those provided by K-State Research and Extension?

Current mentor for three students attending WSU Tech and Butler Community College. Volunteer at middle and high school for financial literacy program. I continue to be a community volunteer for children in our community.

What goals do you envision for Extension?

To bring more community awareness of the mission and vision of the Extension Center and Community Vitality.



# COMMUNITY VITALITY

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## LORI LOHRENZ

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I am a retired microbiologist from ViaChristi St. Francis and AMS Laboratories, having lived in Wichita since 1979. I first joined the Master Gardener program in 1995, and also actively volunteered over the years with Positive Directions, East High School site council, McKnight Neighborhood Association, Science Olympiad, and a local women's clinic. Currently I co-chair the Community Gardens and Plant a Row Committee in the Master Gardener Program.

What are your experiences with adult and/or youth educational programs, including those provided by K-State Research and Extension?

I have presented programs at Botanica, Wichita Public Libraries, Wichita Public Schools and to Master Gardeners on topics such as composting, herb gardening, kombucha making, vermicomposting and soil preparation. Working with Master Gardeners, I have assisted with kids' Juneteenth events, garden activities with kids in community gardens, and compost-related school activities.

What goals do you envision for Extension?

My goal is to help extend the reach of Sedgwick County Extension services into the neighborhoods and communities who lack access to and awareness of the wide range of services we can provide, and to grow those resources based upon community needs.

# COMMUNITY VITALITY

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## JAN LONG

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I am a 2022 retiree from the City of Wichita, with 42 years of service, mostly in the Park and Public Works departments. In the fall of 2021 I used vacation time to take Master Gardener Basic Training. I have enjoyed serving on several committees and hope to try more in future years. I also volunteer for Wichita Park & Recreation events.

What are your experiences with adult and/or youth educational programs, including those provided by K-State Research and Extension?

My horticultural experience with Extension goes way back to the 1980s when City Park employees would tour the John Pair Research Center turf trials (hosted by Dr. Pair himself!). Throughout the years I have kept up with the horticultural end and familiarized myself with Extension's many other resources and offerings.

What goals do you envision for Extension?

Our Extension office already offers a wide variety of services, educational opportunities and programs that many in Sedgwick County still do not know about. I would like to take steps so that every county resident can become familiar with what Extension does and feel comfortable accessing, learning and enjoying what we offer.



# FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

## RAVEN ALEXANDER



I'm the Mobility Relations and Grants Manager at Wichita Transit, serving for eight years. My role involves public outreach, education, and community engagement, along with forging partnerships to meet community needs and boost ridership through program development. As a Wichita native, I've developed a deep passion for improving my community. I actively engage in volunteer work with various organizations and agencies whenever time allows. My mission, both in my professional role and personal life, is to enhance the quality of life for people of all ages in Wichita.

What are your experiences with adult and/or youth educational programs, including those provided by K-State Research and Extension?

An experienced community leader with a diverse background, including serving as a Girl Scout Troop Leader, and leading Boys and Girls Club programming in previous employment. Professionally, I have developed and implemented the Wichita Transit Travel Training Program. This program is customized to meet the needs of individuals or groups interested in learning to navigate transportation services.

What goals do you envision for Extension?

My goals revolve around empowering the Wichita community through collaboration. By working together, we can address the diverse needs of our residents, ensuring that every voice is heard and every need is met. This approach not only addresses immediate concerns but also creates a sustainable foundation for our city's growth and well-being. Additionally, education and skill development are pivotal in community empowerment, serving both present needs and nurturing future leaders.



# FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

## BRIAN PRESSNALL



I've been retired for 4 years. I worked as a Building Automation Engineer for Johnson Controls. I'm married to my wife Robin and live in Bel Aire KS. I have 2 daughters (both married), 1 grandson under 2 and one grandson on the way.

In my retirement I keep very busy projects at Maker Spaces like MakeICT and GoCreate. I'm a member and on the board of the Prairie Quilt Guild in Wichita, I serve as Advertising Chairman and I'm a member of the Charity Quilt Committee. I've been a volunteer at the Extension Office with the SHICK program, helping seniors navigate Medicare. I'm currently operating the satellite office at WSU Metroplex. I'm a VITA volunteer through United Way. This program prepares tax returns for low income individuals. Soon I'll be starting my 5th year with this. I volunteer at Dear Neighbor in the Hilltop area of Wichita as a designated Payee for clients that need help with collecting and distributing their income and paying their bills in a timely manner. I have also volunteered at Union Rescue Mission, Ronald McDonald House and United Methodist Open Door food bank.

What are your experiences with adult and/or youth educational programs, including those provided by K-State Research and Extension?

The majority of my experience is with the SHICK program. I'm beginning my second year with SHICK and I find it very rewarding. I love it when I can help make sense of Medicare for clients and set them on a good path.

What goals do you envision for Extension?

SHICK has been my only involvement at Extension so far. I would like to learn more about the full scope of Extension offerings. In regard to SHICK, I would like to see it expand with more volunteers available. I'd like to see more advertising of the service and an outreach to physicians who may then refer their patients to SHICK for assistance.



# FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

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## JUSTIN SHORE

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I hail from the small, rural Kansas town of Grenola, originally. My country upbringing is countered by my life-long career in technology. A career that has taken me around the world. I have also worked for a number of independent telephone companies and Internet providers throughout Kansas over the years, particularly rural providers. I now work for Cisco Systems as a Senior Network Engineer. I was elected to the Clearwater City Council in 2019 and am the current Council President. I have served on the WAMPO Technical Advisory Committee for 2 years. I was recently appointed to the Wichita Transit Advisory Board to focus on public transit as a regional economic driver and equalizer for the outlying and underserved communities. I volunteer for a number of community groups and activities, as well as my local senior center.

What are your experiences with adult and/or youth educational programs, including those provided by K-State Research and Extension?

I am familiar with the adult educational programs offered through the Clearwater Senior Center and the Department of Aging. I worked in the education sector for 12 years, mostly from the technology side. I also taught technology classes to educators, IT personnel, and summer school students. I was raised in a family with multiple generations of educators and grew up with education and public service as a way of life.

What goals do you envision for Extension?

The breadth of the FCS PDC and the programs it drives is expansive, which is fortunate because the need is just as expansive. We have a rapidly aging population in an ever-advancing world. Needs for this group of experienced citizens run the gamut from nutritional assistance to cyber security and technology awareness, elder abuse prevention to healthy lifestyles to enhance one's life through longevity. We can all do more to assist the most experienced in our communities. On the other end of the spectrum, studies have repeatedly shown that children can't learn when they're hungry. You have to fill the belly before you can fill the mind. Food insecurity underlies many social and health issues in a household. The FCS PDC's breadth fills those gaps. My goal as a representative from an outlying, rural community would be to help the FCS PDC spread awareness of the programs offered to those outlying communities, as well as help improve access for the underserved communities within Wichita itself.



# FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

## JANEA TRAPP



A graduate of Fort Hays State University, I have lived in the South Wichita metro area for almost 18 years, residing first in Haysville and then Derby for the last 7 years. I am a proud military spouse and mother to an active teenage son. As the Community Wellness Director with the Derby Recreation Commission, I lead our internal DRC Wellness Committee, the Derby Health Collaborative with its subcommittees and oversee the daily operations of our Community Wellness Hub within our Oaklawn Activity Center. An active member of the Derby Community, I actively participate in USD 260 Wellness Committee meetings and district strategic planning meetings focused on Student and Staff Mental Health & Wellness Supports and I am serving my last year as an officer for the PTO at Derby Middle School.

What are your experiences with adult and/or youth educational programs, including those provided by K-State Research and Extension?

Prior to my current role, I was a substitute teacher for USD 260 and a diabetes and wellness educator with the Derby Recreation Commission, teaching Chronic Disease Self-Management, Diabetes Self-Management, Eat Healthy Be Active and a number of other wellness classes. I currently oversee the wellness programming for the Derby Recreation Commission which includes Wellness Wednesdays (nutrition/wellness education) and an upcoming mentoring program within our Oaklawn Afterschool Program serving 145 Kindergarten through 5th Grade students in our Oaklawn/Sunview communities. In the past year, my team and K-State Research and Extension served a number of individuals through Diabetes: You Are in Control, Walk with Ease, and its Hypertension Awareness Program (pilot) with monthly nutrition classes under Health and Nutrition. I have also become familiar with the services being provided through SHICK and EFNAP/SNAP-Ed as I look for ways to increase awareness of these valuable services within our community.

What goals do you envision for Extension?

As a member of the Program Development Committee I will seek opportunities for K-State Research and Extension programming to thrive not only within the communities I serve, but find ways to partner throughout Sedgwick County to bring awareness to the number of services and untapped opportunities your organization provides to communities and individuals in promoting overall health and wellness. It has been my experience that partnerships are the keys to success. It is in our partnerships that we find new and innovative ways to fill the gaps that exist and build bridges to bring education and services to the communities that need them most. I look forward to the opportunity to learn and grow with you!