Epsilon Sigma Phi Grants Committee
2014-15 Annual Report
April 29, 2015

Committee Members: Colleen Pulvermacher (4-H & Youth Development), Kay Buelke Schroeder (Retiree), Pattie Carroll (Family Living), Co-Chair, and Christine Kniep (Family Living),- Co- Chair

Grant Award Categories:

Professional Development Grant

This is a general fund that provides up to $2,000 per person for in-depth, focused, professional development opportunities such as formal coursework, internships, workshops or conferences with a specific subject matter focus.

Marvin and Ellouise Beatty Award

One award of up to $2,500 annually is made to an exceptionally promising and/or productive individual in UWEX-Cooperative Extension to aid the recipient in the development of his/her career as an adult educator.

Henry L. Ahlgren Award

Provides up to $5,000 annually for individuals or groups whose work helps to perpetuate the family farm in Wisconsin. It supports professional development that improves the ability of Extension educators to work in agriculture and natural resource areas such as farm succession, modernizing family farms, or protecting the environment.

J. Mitchell Mackey Award

An award of up to $1200 to support professional development of promising faculty or staff in Youth Development.

Ellen Fitzsimmons Award

Provides up to $1200 annually to support professional development of promising/productive faculty or staff.

ESP National Conference Grant

Provides up to $1200 annually to assist UWEX faculty or staff in attending the National ESP Conference.

ESP Grants Awarded - August 2014 through February 2015

Henry L. Ahlgren Award

- Heather Schlesser to attend Artificial Insemination School

Marvin and Ellouise Beatty Award

- Amber Canto to attend Population Health Sciences Class

J. Mitchell Mackey Award

- Dominique Cherry to attend Business-Social Media program

ESP Professional Development Grants

- Patrick Nehring to attend conference on Engaging for Change
- Chris Viau to attend the NAE4-HA Annual Conference
- Cathy Techtmann to attend the Rising Voices-Engaging Scientific and Indigenous Weather and Climate Research Conference
- Jill Hicks to support Masters Degree Class
- Nancy Vance to attend the National Institute of Financial and Economic Literacy Workshop

Total funds awarded between August 2014 and February 2014.....$ 11,080

The next deadline to submit an application for a professional development grant is August 1, 2015. There is an "abundance" of funds available this summer and we hope to see MANY applications. The application can be found on the ESP website, http://blogs.ces.uwex.edu/esp/grant/.

Grant Committee members have identified a number of tasks and grant application modifications they would like to propose to the ESP Board. These include:

- Up-date application form and rating sheet to be parallel
- Modify method for securing administrative support for application – possibly electronic approval vs. hard copy mail – logistically it can be a challenge to secure signatures
- Retain requirement of report 1 paragraph – 1 page
- Require application from each individual submitting a request vs. joint applications
- Add named awards for Louise Young and Rosemary Stare per their donations to the endowment
- Determine if Young and Stare awards need to target specific audience
- Have named awards for Fitzsimmons, Mackey, Young, and Stare awards be up to $1,500
- Limit application for all named awards, Fitzsimmons, Mackey, Young, Stare, Beatty and Ahlgren awards to current ESP members
- Decrease Professional Development Grant caps to up to $1,200
- Increase committee membership to represent all program areas – identified in committee documents
- Increase promotion of grants – via Dean's WisLine, Regional Directors, mentors, etc.
- Encourage ESP Editor to edit professional development articles as needed
- Clarify grant year – August/January or January/August?

The committee plans to have these items drafted for the August board meeting, targeting implementation in 2016.

Respectfully Submitted, Christine Kniep and Pattie Carroll, ESP Grants Committee co-Chairs

YOUR WISCONSIN RETIREMENT FUNDS IN ACTION THROUGH 2014

Dwayne A Rohweder—ESP Representative to WCOA

I attended the monthly and annual meetings of the Wisconsin Coalition of Annuitants (WCOA) representing ESP. During the past year, I reported on the status of the WRS retirement funds in each newsletter, at the ESP picnic, and at monthly CUBA KIDS meetings-an organization of retired state Cooperative Extension district and county workers in the Madison area.

The State of Wisconsin Investment Board SWIB closed 2014 with returns of 5.7% in the CORE fund and 7.3% in the VARIABLE fund Table 1. SWIB did not achieve the required 7.2% in the Core fund and just barely made that return in the Variable fund. Annuity adjustments for retirees will be a plus 2.9% in the CORE and only a plus 2.0% in the VARIABLE. These amounts are effective April 1, 2015 and will be paid in your checks dated May 1, 2015. You will have or soon will receive your notification.

SWIB is a long-term investor. Its strategy includes diversification including protection during extreme market declines. The data in Table 1 are one year as well as 3, 5, 10, and 20 year average returns as follows:

Fund	2014	3 year	5 year	10 year	20 year
CORE	5.7%	10.9%	9.3%	6.7%	8.6%
VARIABLE	7.3%	17.4%	12.7%	7.1%	8.8%

Retirees also are receiving a COLA in their federal retirement and social security funds.

The chair of the committee is looking for an ESP retiree in the Madison area that can assist in reporting actions on the WRS Funds and who can assume the role of Chair in the future.