

SUCCESS STORY

Partnership with Workforce Development Program Strengthens Extension's Urban Reach

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Urban county Extension agents and the staff may not be as well known to their local residents compared to their counterparts in rural Kentucky. They find themselves competing with large, heavily advertised organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club, YMCA, and the United Way. “Definitely a major role for our office is finding the niches,” explained Rex. “Working with other specialized organizations in plenty of different roles is a big part of our partnership effort.”

Both of the Campbell County Family and Consumer Science Agents teamed up to support the Brighton Center for Employment Training (CET). The CET is a skill specific workforce development program accredited through the Council on Occupational Education as part of Brighton Center’s employment and work services division. The Brighton Center supports eleven focus areas that support their mission to create opportunities for individuals and families to reach self-sufficiency through family support services, education, employment and leadership.

Using media clips, PowerPoint, role-playing, storytelling and informational handouts, Rex and Thompson facilitated engaging programs utilizing the Kentucky Extension Leadership Development, Nurturing Families, Small Steps to Health and Wealth, Nutrition Education Program and Making Healthy Life Choices Extension curricula. Each agent separately taught communication skills, teamwork, understanding generational differences, talents and assets, self-presentation and conflict resolution according to their different focus areas.

Campbell County FCS Agents modeled their advisory group to provide grassroots support across numerous industry sectors, much like the Brighton Center. Both organizations have seen the benefits of sharing best practices to engage entire communities as well as provide inclusive participation.

This is the second year Kentucky Extension has strengthened a successful partnership with the Brighton Center. Extension provides tools and leadership to coordinate with Brighton’s curriculum. “The Brighton Center collaboration is different than other extension programs because of the large age range [of the class participants]” Thompson explained. “The partnership between Extension and the Brighton Center allow participants a place to learn to be successful.”



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