

Urban Extension Initiative (UEI) Ambassadors Leadership Program

The Urban Extension Initiative (UEI) provides professional support for Extension Agents who serve and engage within urban communities across the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Its primary focus is to enhance community engagement, professional development, advocacy and research for urban centered Cooperative Extension.

The Urban Extension Initiative Fellows Leadership Program is a year-long leadership development program designed as a hands-on experience to engage Extension faculty around the concept of Urban Extension and necessary skills and knowledge needed within the field.

UEI Fellow Application and Selection Process:

- The number of agents/specialists selected for each cohort will be limited to 10.
- Cohort members will be selected utilizing an application format.

UEI Fellow Terms & Expectations:

Term Length:

- Cohort members will participate in a 1-year program and upon completion of the program, will be considered official *Urban Extension Initiative Fellows*. In addition, it is expected and encouraged that Fellows establish a longitudinal relationship with UEI, and play a role in future UEI innovations.

Fellows Development Program:

- Potential Topics – (Topics can shift to meet the needs of each cohort)
 - The program will include interactive sessions pertaining to such topics as: urban extension, building relationships, community engagement, creativity, power/social justice, culture, learning and emotions
 - Associates will work individually on an innovative project that will have two deliverables:
 - Innovative community engagement project/event within their urban community
 - Research/evaluation pertaining to the innovative practice
 - Each participant will identify a community leader/organization they haven't worked with in the past to partner with; will work closely with this partner to implement their innovative community-engaged project (would like to see the community partner attend 2-3 sessions)
 - The community-engaged projects should be applied within the participant's local community/region regarding a social issue that makes a difference within that community. This project could be an extension/innovation of a current project of importance to the agent/community, however significant change/innovation needs to be documented to use as the project for this Fellows program.

UEI Fellow Expectations:

- Required attendance at all UEI Fellow functions– if necessary, participants can miss one in-service with a documented excuse
- Complete their program deliverables.

Urban Extension Initiative - Fellows Program Outline

Structure:

- Monthly meetings (1-3 p.m.)
- Taught/facilitated by experts

Program Timeline:

Date	Topic	Assignment	Notes:
September 2021 – Orientation (face to face meeting)	- Introduction to UEI Fellows Program - Background of Extension - Where have we been? - Where are we now? - Where do we need to be?		Encourage participants to begin thinking about what their educational/community engaged project will be; needs to be a proposal
History of Extension	What is needed to make that happen? - Communities Place, Practice & Interest		
October – Urban Extension Defined	- What does this mean for Urban Extension? - Define urban - What does it mean to be an Urban vs. General Extension agent? (expert vs. convener) - What role does Extension play in the 21 st century? - What’s missing?		
November – Innovation & Creativity	- What is innovation? - How can we think creatively? - How does innovation and creativity play into program development?		
December – Bye	No meeting	Idea proposal for UEI program	Participants need to come to next meeting with a full UEI idea proposal, so they can work side-by-side with

			the instructor; Need to generate a rubric/example of an idea proposal
January – Creative Educational Program Development & Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are the steps to educational program design? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community learning & development - Creative program design - Experiential education & action-based education - Action research methods - Effective program evaluation 		Participants will be working through their UEI proposal during both the fourth and fifth meetings
February – Convening & Engaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Define convening - Specific steps toward effective convening - The importance of community engagement in innovative programming - Developing buy-in for innovative programming - What is the role of the specialist? 		Participants will be working through their UEI proposal during both the 4 th and 5 th meetings
March – Urban Cultural Exploration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Urban culture - Working with different cultures - Effective engagement within urban settings 		
April – Bye	No meeting	Final research/evaluation plan for UEI Fellows program	
May – Economic Innovations within Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is entrepreneurship? - Economic gardening - Developing a business plan - Resources 		Within 7 th , 8 th , and 9 th meetings examples of best case studies will be presented to illustrate topics
June – Social Innovations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What does social innovation look like? - How do I introduce social innovation into my community? 		

July – Cultural Innovations	- Identifying/engaging with diverse audiences - Cultural intelligence - Community downshifting - Stereotyping/cultural bias	
August – Bye	No meeting	Finish up UEI Fellows project and research/evaluation
September 2022 – Celebration! (face to face meeting)	- Graduation Party & Project Presentation	

Final Product:

Throughout the program, fellows will work on a project with two components:

1. Community-engaged program/event
2. Research/Evaluation

From this project, **two** (2) deliverables would be produced:

- Project deliverable – (i.e. Ted Talk, Youtube video, online resource, etc.)
- Scholarship – conference proceedings, journal articles, Extension publications (i.e. publishable manuscript, presentation at a conference, Extension factsheet)

Impact:

- More holistic thinking & application
- Improved community connections
- Brush up on basic methodology important for urban agents (such as convening, program development, action research, evaluation, etc.)
- Assist in making programming more innovative, relevant
- Broaden understanding and perspectives associated with urban audiences
- Increased human capital
- Cohort-building