Extension Board Update

4/28/23

Jason Tuller, Extension Educator – Thayer County – Rural Prosperity Nebraska

In March I was able to help with Inventure Day in Clay County. I was the mentor for two teams of seventh and eighth graders as they went to stations to learn about creating a product and a business pitch. Both teams we able to do excellent presentations to their peers and to the judges.

Later that same week I traveled to Hastings to do facilitation for a non-profit organization. I walked them through a process where I asked questions about what they do and we worked together to categorize these ideas. Then we categorized the ideas which helped to bring their board together and to create a path forward for their organization.

The next week included a quick zoom interview for ABC Channel 8 about First Impressions Online. We have now had three communities go through that program. It is time to visit with some of them to get feedback on the program. All of us in the Southern Plains Unit were able to attend the Zone 10 spring gathering.

At the end of March, Marilyn Schlake and I did two sessions of Red Carpet Service training for the Hastings Chamber of Commerce. We had around 30 attendees for the sessions. Both the Red Carpet Service and the facilitation were paid programming.

A significant portion of my time in the last couple of months were taken up by preparing to and speaking with legislators. In March I attended the NACEB Annual Conference and Legislative Day. We spoke with several of the legislators that serve Nuckolls and Thayer county as well as another who serves in my accountability region. In addition to visiting the state legislature, I also made a trip to Washington D.C. to visit with our federal representatives. I attended the Public Issues and Leadership Development Conference which is organized by JCEP (Joint Council of Extension Professionals). I was accompanied on this trip by Associate Dean Dave Varner, EZC Angi Heller, EZC Jay Jenkins, Extension Educator Jessica Groskopf, and NACEB President Shawn Pollock. We were able to speak with all five of Nebraska’s federal legislators. The PILD conference was devoted to learning how to effectively tell Extension’s story to our representatives.

Looking ahead In May I will be spending a couple of days in Kansas presenting at two grocery store seminars sponsored by Kansas State Extension. In June I will be attending and doing two presentations at the CEC conference in Valentine. I continue to be on search committees for the Nuckolls County 4-H educator position as well as on one for an RPN educator. RPN has 4 openings throughout the state.