

Jason Tuller

Extension Board Report

March/April 2024

March included a continuation of changes of systems at the University. New PEARs reporting requirements continue. We have had hours and hours of webinars about how to do reporting in PEARs. A new way to do an old report was released in April. We also have a new travel expense system. The first time I used it, it seemed to go smoothly, and I was reimbursed quickly.

I am on the steering team for the All Things Nebraska initiative. It is an Extension funded project for a couple more years, but we need to build a way to make the program sustainable. I created an initial business plan for it and am working with the team to figure out how this will work in the future. All Things Nebraska is a data mapping website available here: <https://allthingsnebraska.unl.edu/>

I was able to attend the IAP2 Conference in Omaha. It was a regional conference about public participation. The main thing I learned is RPN has all the tools to do this well, but everyone struggles to get the public to come to meetings. I did see a couple of presentations where the presenters were told the results of their meetings by their bosses before even talking to the public. I guess that's the dark side of public participation.

I was a mentor for two tables of students at both Fillmore and Clay County Inventure days. I recorded a 60 second announcement that played for a week on KWBE. I attended C4K meetings for Thayer County and Clay County, working on childcare issues in those counties. I continued working with the grocery store in Exeter on their concerns with Cindy Houlden, my colleague from NCD. I continue to work in the broadband space. I met with Diane Lowe from the Nebraska Broadband Office a couple times to understand the money coming from the federal government and where Extension would fit in those programs. I am also attending a training course called Fierce Foundations which teaches communications.

The Double Up Food Bucks program is going through a transition because the main leader of that program Vanessa Weilenga is leaving Extension. Before she leaves, we are working hard to get Ray's Apple Market in Fairbury running smoothly. I went there and trained several cashiers on the program and its benefits.