

Jason Tuller

Extension Board Report

May/June 2024

In early May I attended the CEC Conference in Sidney. I was responsible for the online registration and did a presentation on First Impressions Online with the Sidney tourism director who went through the First Impressions Online program. It was interesting to hear what Sidney gained from the program.

I attended the Fierce Foundations training on communication styles, presented by Nebraska Extension. The focus of the training was on speaking clearly and directly, ie not ignoring the elephant in the room.

I continue working with the Nebraska Broadband Office. They have submitted a grant application in which they need help with program evaluation, so we connected with my colleague Becky Vogt. There will be a large grant opportunity in the coming couple of months for digital equity. This grant will include monies for training in communities on how to use broadband. Previous versions of RPN did a significant amount of training in this area, and when the grant application is released, we will look at it and see our interest and capacity.

Attended and presented at the NACDEP Conference in Houston. Presented on our eCommunities program that placed business coaches in the Hastings/Grand Island, Columbus, and Broken Bow/Ord areas. I talked about our successes and our failures. Last week we were awarded a grant from the USDA to continue this program for another year. The grant is smaller and will include the Columbus and Broken Bow/Ord area coaches with a few more counties but not the Hastings/Grand Island area.

Looking into the next several months, my colleague Maria Cantu-Hines has worked with the Department of Health and Human Services to get a contract to teach CLAS standards through zoom. Maria has asked me to assist her in these presentations. CLAS is Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services. This training is required in healthcare situations. It just helps people be aware of many cultural and language issues that can arise. After these zoom presentations are finished, we are looking at using these standards as a local training for communities through our People Attraction and Placemaking team. When you look at the communities in Nebraska that have a growing population, they all have a high number of immigrants. The more welcoming that a community is to immigrants, the more likely that it will grow.