

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Friday, December 11, 2009

DISCUSSION ITEM C-2: **Budget Line Items: Purdue University, County Agriculture Extension Educators**

Staff Recommendation

For discussion only.

Background

As part of the biennial budget process, the Commission makes recommendations on the so called higher education line items. The Commission is taking time during this off-budget year to take a closer look at the several line items in the budget than is typically possible during the busy budget session. This second group of line items to be reviewed by the Commission consists of two line items assigned to Purdue University: Agricultural Research and County Agriculture Extension Educators; and one line item assigned to Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana: Workforce Certification Centers.

As part of Purdue University's traditional Land Grant status, the University engages the state agricultural economy through various means. One of those is through County Agriculture Extension and Educators. PU's educators, specialists, and volunteers live and work in all 92 Indiana counties, where they bring all of the expertise from Purdue University to their local constituents. The Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service is a synergistic and collaborative partnership between the state of Indiana, county government, and the United States Department of Agriculture. The Cooperative Extension Service represents one of the nation's largest providers of scientific research-based information and education for farmers, families, consumers, community leaders, entrepreneurs, health-care providers, educators, and youth.

Supporting Document

County Educators, 2009-11 Biennial Budget Request from Purdue University, December 2, 2009.

County Educators

The Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service is a synergistic and collaborative partnership between the state of Indiana, county government, and the United States Department of Agriculture.

The Cooperative Extension Service represents one of the nation's largest providers of scientific research-based information and education for farmers, families, consumers, community leaders, entrepreneurs, health-care providers, educators, and youth. The Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service program areas are tailored to meet the needs of Indiana, needs that are well-known through our direct engagement with local communities and citizens. Our educators, specialists, and volunteers live and work in all 92 Indiana counties, where they bring all of the expertise from Purdue University to their local constituents. We strive to bring information and expertise in the form wanted and when it is wanted. This "just in time" educational focus, along with our continuous local presence, creates an opportunity for sustained involvement in helping local communities and local residents create their preferred future.

Our mottos include "Knowledge to Go" and "Extension Means Business." These make it clear that we seek to be drivers for economic development in rural communities through our educational efforts. Our community and economic development educators offer key educational programs in community leadership, business planning, financial management, and economic development.

Extension educators in agricultural and natural resources offer programs and information on agricultural production and financial management for farmers, food processors, bioenergy refineries, manufacturers, and consumers. We also provide expertise in environmental issues, natural resource conservation, and land use.

Consumer and family sciences extension specialists and educators provide education to Hoosiers in key areas of families, community volunteers, health, and nutrition. Current programs are focused on obesity, diabetes, calcium intake, and healthy eating.

A dedicated network of extension educators, parents, local leaders, and volunteer staff makes Indiana 4-H one of the most valued youth programs in the state. Purdue extension youth educators develop individual talents, life skills, and leadership abilities among Indiana's young people, not only through the traditional venue of 4-H clubs and county fairs, but also through field-tested school enrichment materials and locally led community programs. Over 280,000 age-eligible youth are engaged in 4-H programming in Indiana, making 4-H the largest youth development program in Indiana outside of the public school system. 4-H in the Classroom programs employ innovative, experiential methods to improve the science and math literacy skills of Indiana students and help them develop positive attitudes toward science and mathematics.

Purdue Extension is focused on bringing the resources of Purdue University to the people of Indiana to enhance their lives and livelihood.