

WEDA Western Program & Organizational Leadership Committee (WPOLC)
January 1, 2022-December 31, 2022
Annual Plan of Work

Committee Membership Mission/Purpose:

The WPOLC shall be comprised of one person from each WEDA member institution who is able to represent all Extension administrative and program functions of their institution. The committee initiates and collaborates with the WEDA to identify, coordinate, and provide leadership for advancing WEDA regional and multi-state initiatives, exploring extramural funding opportunities to support those initiatives, and address operational and organizational issues of importance to member institutions. The WPOLC may appoint special committees and/or task forces with membership internal and external to the WPOLC to assist and help coordinate Extension initiatives, programs, and operational and organizational work. The WPOLC will report to and meet jointly with the WEDA at least annually to discuss activities and outcomes of the past year, and to initiate and discuss priorities for the future. WPOLC also conducts the selection process for the Western Extension Awards of Excellence, and the Western Extension Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award.

Extension program leader groups and Regional Centers like the Western Center for Metropolitan Extension and Research (WCMER), the Western Rural Development Center (WRDC) and others, will coordinate and collaborate, as is useful, with WPOLC.

Taking into account WEDA’s long-term goals and intended outcomes, what are the committee’s major goals & ongoing strategies/activities?

Strategy/Activity	Metrics	Who	Timeline	Accomplishments
Western Region Network for Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Literature review, environmental scan developed - Conference Planning Grant LOI submitted - Theory of change developed - Conference Planning Grant submitted - Full Network convened - Submit a WERA 	Shannon & Mandy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May 30, 2022 - April 11, 2022 - July 1, 2022 - July 30, 2022 - January 24, 2023 - March 15, 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Convene a group of Extension and research faculty along with other partners to advance research and education related to the intersection of diet quality and mental health. - Increase awareness of the relationship between diet and mental health. - Conduct research and education to improve mental health outcomes through addressing diet quality and healthy food access. - Develop resources that states and territories can add to their portfolio of mental health efforts either as a stand-alone piece or additive to ongoing efforts (e.g., FRSSAN, mental health

				<p>first aid, parenting programs).</p> <p>- Increase collaboration regionally and enhance fund development efforts.</p>
WPOLC Member Orientation	<p>-Orientation plan developed for use by WPOLC for new members</p> <p>-Develop welcome guide to be accessed on the website</p>	Shannon (Chair)	By March 2022	<p>-Full orientation plan is implemented with all new members.</p> <p>-Increase knowledge, skills and effectiveness of individual members and WPOLC.</p>
ECOP Program Action Teams (PAT)	<p>-Involve Western Region colleagues in each PAT to help ensure the Western perspective is part of the national strategy.</p> <p>-Request WR members share updates to WPOLC regularly.</p> <p>-Facilitate regional conversations regarding each PAT.</p>	-Ethan (lead), Mike	<p>-Jan 2022 names identified and agreed upon</p> <p>-At least 2 times per year</p> <p>-Annually (or as enough information is ready for use by regional groups/states).</p>	<p>-At least one WR member on each PAT.</p> <p>-Increase WR states knowledge of national priorities and use of resources.</p>
DEI Program Action Team (PAT)	-Involve Western Region colleagues in the PAT to help	-Jim	By January 2022	-At least 3-4 members from the Western Region join the group.

	<p>ensure Western perspective is part of the national strategy.</p> <p>-Solicit membership from each state.</p> <p>-As appropriate, lead a WR group to explore the Western perspective.</p>		-As soon as goals are established and in-progress.	-Increase regional capacity to do DEI work.
Climate Program Action Team (PAT)	<p>-Coalesce a multistate consortium to design a regional strategy to address climate based on the PATs work.</p> <p>-As a region respond to funding opportunities.</p>	-Cary	As soon as the 6-12 month goals are realized.	<p>-Develop a regional strategy to address climate change.</p> <p>-Increase regional capacity.</p> <p>-Increase regional funding.</p>
DEI professional development webinar	<p>-DEI award winner to host online educational sessions to:</p> <p>1) Western Region Extension professionals to increase capacity of WR to replicate the framework. Will invite ECOP program action teams (DEI, Health), University DEI/civil rights compliance officers,</p> <p>2) community stakeholders to increase excitement, build awareness among potential partners about the framework, and partnering with Extension to replicate the model to achieve identified regional goals, and 3) funders (e.g.,</p>	<p>Wiley #1</p> <p>And #2 and #3 led by the WR DEI group</p>	<p>By March 2022 for #1</p> <p>Engage in discussion with WEDA at March meeting for #2 and #3 on plan and approach.</p>	<p>-Celebrate excellent DEI work.</p> <p>-Increase capacity among WR Extension professionals to do DEI work.</p> <p>-Increase funding for DEI work.</p>

	Kellogg Foundation) – a professional video developed and discussion session held to discuss the WR vision of implementing the framework to achieve desired outcomes and cost.			
Orientation for Extension professionals*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Carrie to attend Western Rural Development Civil Leadership project meeting in Bozeman Nov 11th to determine pathway forward, committee membership requirements, and potential/need for 4 WPOLC members to engage. -WRDC subcommittee working on the Extension Leadership program to present to WPOLC. -Discuss and develop opportunities for joining or supporting them in their efforts. 	Carrie (lead), Mike, Jim, Wiley	<p>Done</p> <p>-By end of April, 2022</p> <p>-By end of April, 2022</p>	-Increase professional development opportunities for WR Extension Professionals to develop professionals, improve retention and advancement, and establish a positive culture.
WREN (see attached plan)*				

Additional Priority Strategies/Activities and timeline for 2022:

Strategy/Activity	Metrics	Who	Timeline	Accomplishments
WPOLC website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Populate public and password protected materials on WPOLC webpage. -Add materials that would be helpful for WPOLC members (e.g., NIFA Civil Rights review state write-ups) 	Doreen, Jodie, Mark	<p>Group to provide update in March 2022</p> <p>-By October 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Increase access to information for WPOLC members and the public. -Preserve institutional knowledge of the group.

**Western Region Evaluation Network (WREN)
January 1, 2022-December 31, 2022
Annual Plan of Work**

Committee Membership Mission/Purpose:

WREN is a network formed by the Western Program and Organizational Leadership Committee ([WPOLC](#)), which reports to the Western Extension Directors Association ([WEDA](#)). Our charge is to improve evaluation knowledge, skills, capacity etc. across the Western region. We are currently working to fulfill that charge by: 1) Creating a "soup to nuts" series of resources in the areas of Needs Assessment, Program Development, and Evaluation. Our "value-added" is curating best practices for outreach evaluation and giving examples specific to Extension; 2) Offering informal peer review services to fellow WREN members for projects, papers and other evaluation-related products to strengthen member skills; 3) Reaching out to Western states and territories without dedicated evaluation specialists/teams to leverage our network and fill gaps; 4) Networking with other professional development groups ([NAEPSDP](#), [JCEP](#), [AEA EEE TIG](#), [WELD](#)) to help build evaluation capacity.

WREN is composed of professionals from each WEDA member institution who are able to represent the evaluation learning resources and needs of their institution. WREN currently has representatives from each of 11 Western states and is working on reaching out to the rest of the states and territories to determine evaluation information and training needs across the region. WREN may organize activities by sub-committees based on member interest and expertise. The full WREN committee meets at least annually with WPOLC to review outcomes from past priorities and set goals for future work plans.

Taking into account WEDA and WPOLC’s long-term goals and intended outcomes, what are the WREN committee’s major goals & ongoing strategies/activities?

Strategy/Activity	Metrics	Lead	Timeline	Accomplishments
1. Continue to promote needs assessment (NA) resources	Increased reach	Vikram and Bill	FY22 Ongoing	Distributed to 92+ students & professionals PPT adapted in NV training
2. Create/curate program development resources + impacts writing for Extension faculty	Shareable training materials like slides, videos, reading lists; Add focus, help on impacts for non-Extension audiences	Alda	Fall FY22	Emerging; will differentiate individual-level resources from WEDA’s wider regional effort on telling a collective story
3. In-network product review team (trainings, papers, videos, etc.)	Completed reviews (internal, to improve WREN member materials)	LaJoy and Cary	FY22 Ongoing by request	2 informal network reviews completed (for Nevada team and Lendel)
4. In-person meeting	Progress on all other listed objectives	Reno, NV joint with WPOLC	March 21-24, 2022	Expected ripple effect of synergy due to a dedicated block of joint work time
5. Recruit full roster of state/territory reps	% representation from Western region	All of WREN	FY22 Ongoing	New WA rep started 9/2 New OR rep invite 10/11
6. Populate WREN page on WEDA website	Increased awareness of WREN resources	Steve	FY22 Ongoing	ID of initial materials to post (intro, annotated bib)

2022 Sub-Committees include the **Needs Assessment Team:** Bill, Vikram, Kim; **Peer Review Team:** Michele, LaJoy, Cary, Bill; **Program Development Team:** Vikram, Nav, Alda, Kim, Steve

Partnership Priority Strategies/Activities and timeline for 2022:

Strategy/Activity	Metrics	Lead	Timeline	Accomplishments
Publishable summary of Western Extension Leadership Development (WELD) outcomes	follow up on outcomes: long-term effects WELD has on leadership capacity in Extension?	WELD interns on WREN: Alda, Michele; Nav, LaJoy, Kim	FY22 if WELD agrees	Will send letter of interest to WELD leadership by end of November 2021
eXension Foundation evidence-based committee	Represent needs of West, share products	Cary	FY22	Submitted request to participate
WEDA-NIFA impact communication committee	Represent needs of West, share products	LaJoy	FY22	Submitted request to participate

WREN membership list (Goal #5: Recruit for fuller representation)

State/Territory	Land Grant Institution	WREN representative(s)	Notes/Suggestions
Alaska	University of AK Fairbanks	Alda Norris	One 1994
American Samoa	AS Community College	Vacant	
Arizona	University of Arizona	Michele Walsh	Two 1994s: DC , TOCC
California	University of California	Vikram Koundinya	
Colorado	Colorado State University	Cary Weiner	
Guam	University of Guam	Vacant	
Hawaii	University of Hawaii	Vacant	
Idaho	University of Idaho	Nav Ghimire	
Micronesia	College of Micronesia	Vacant	
Montana	Montana State University	Steve Siegelin	Seven 1994s
Nevada	University of Nevada	Bill Evans & Najat Elgeberi	
New Mexico	New Mexico State University	LaJoy Spears	One 1994
Mariana Islands	Northern Marianas College	Vacant	
Oregon	Oregon State University	Mary Halbleib (pending)	
Washington	Washington State University	Christina Sanders	One 1994
Wyoming	University of Wyoming	Kim Reaman	

Notes: Utah State University no longer a WEDA member; We still network with [Lendel Narine](#). WREN will send formal email invitations for participation by the end of 2021 to states and territories with "Vacant" designations. For institutions with no eval personnel, we will send our contacts and website.