



Job ID: 31114

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County Engagement Specialist in Community Economic Development Position Description

POSITION: County Engagement Specialist in Community Economic Development and Assistant / Associate / Full Extension Professional

LOCATION: Linneus, MO and primarily serves Linn, Macon and Randolph Counties in the Northeast Region, with additional service across the state as needed.

The University of Missouri (MU) Office of Extension and Engagement's distinct land-grant mission is to improve lives, communities and economies by producing relevant, reliable and responsive educational strategies throughout Missouri. Our dedicated and knowledgeable faculty and staff collaborate with researchers and community leaders to develop and deliver programs that address needs of Missourians including: educational attainment; environmental concerns; community, economic, business and workforce development; global food systems; and health systems. For more information about MU Extension and Engagement, please visit <http://extension.missouri.edu>.

Extension faculty are 12-month, non-tenure track appointments to the promotable ranks of assistant, associate, or full Extension Professional. The rank at time of appointment or promotion is consistent with the standards of achievement and experience established by the faculty.

This position serves as the primary representative of the University of Missouri in the headquarter county, in addition, as the administrative leader of the county extension office.

The Community Development program works collaboratively with communities to foster economic development, leadership development, community decision making, community emergency preparedness and inclusive communities.

CORE DUTIES OF EXTENSION FACULTY

The core duties of MU Extension faculty are to Educate, Create, and Connect. The emphasis among these duties and specific deliverables will vary for different appointments and evolve from year to year, direction for which is developed in an annual plan of work for the program area and for the individual.

- *Educate.* Extension Faculty deliver onsite Extension teaching and programming, online courses, continuing education, technical assistance, consultation, and other educational methods and interventions. The primary role of all Specialists around the state is to disseminate the knowledge generated by the University through educational programs and services to support the individual, organizational, and community goals of Missouri learners and clients.
- *Create.* Extension Faculty develop innovative and research-informed educational products,

services, and materials and scholarly products, including curricula, publications, presentations, and other resources. Extension Faculty contribute to the scholarship of extension and engagement and to applied research, to evaluate and improve how programs and services result in learning and behavior changes that positively impact individuals and communities.

- *Connect.* Extension Faculty engage with learners, communities, and stakeholders including Extension Councils, government officials and agencies, partners, and with university and professional organizations. Strong connections help generate revenue to sustain and grow valued programming through grants, contracts, fees, gifts, and partnerships. Extension faculty intentionally foster diversity and inclusiveness by providing educational programs that connect to the varied needs of Missourians and their communities, through the cycle of market relations including needs assessment, promotion, and feedback utilizing a variety of media and venues.

Specialist Emphasis

- *County engagement and local operations:* In addition, the County Engagement Specialist (CES) serves as the primary representative of and connection to the University of Missouri in the home county and provides administrative and strategic leadership for the county office, representing approximately half of the specialist's effort.

The CES will lead partnership collaborations within the county, cultivating positive relationships between the University and the community toward the development and delivery of educational programs and services that result in individual well-being and community betterment. County Engagement Specialists work with local and campus colleagues to assess needs and progress toward goals within their area of specialization, collaboratively producing a data-informed understanding of the conditions and opportunities within the counties served in Extension's impact areas of agriculture and the environment, youth and families, businesses and communities, and health and safety.

The CES is responsible for the collaborative leadership of the home county office, coordination of county program plans, assisting the county council with financial and non-financial resources, and daily coordination of office personnel. The CES will ensure the development, implementation and evaluation of MU Extension programs by involving county faculty and staff, clientele, extension councils, advisory committees, community agencies, organizations and other citizens. They represent the University of Missouri to county extension councils, county governments and other agencies in determining fiscal needs and in securing resources. The CES will help facilitate county council elections and enhance leadership skills and commitment to supporting the MU Extension mission.

- *Program specialization:* The CES/CED Community Development Specialist is responsible for planning, implementing and evaluating educational programs in the following subject-matter areas: community economic development, capacity assessment, community and organizational planning and decision-making, regional development, leadership and civic engagement, community partnerships, local government, community emergency management, public policy issues identification and framing.

Professional expectations

- All Extension Faculty, regardless of appointment category or type, are expected to demonstrate competency in Communication, Educational Programming and Knowledge of Subject Matter,

Inclusivity, Information and Education Delivery, Interpersonal Relations, Knowledge of Organization, Leadership, Organizational Management, and Professionalism.

- Actively participate in professional development opportunities to continuously improve skills and increase research-based knowledge. Participate in interdisciplinary teams, committees and task forces. Work with faculty and staff located in county offices, across program disciplines and regions, with boards and organizations and with other campuses throughout Missouri with a positive outlook, high personal standard of excellence, and passion for the mission, vision and values of MU Extension.
- Specialists travel throughout Missouri regularly, using own transportation, with occasional travel out of state. Extension Faculty must work effectively, flexibly, and independently, often with little guidance. Working evenings and weekends is often required to meet the needs of learners, clients, and stakeholders. Other duties and responsibilities will be expected to support the mission and purpose of MU Extension.
- Conduct all activities in accordance with the Civil Rights Acts, Title IX, Rehabilitation, Americans with Disabilities Act and local, state and region affirmative action plans.

LEADERSHIP RECEIVED

Administrative supervision is from the Northeast Regional Director. Program leadership is from the statewide Community Development/Business Development Program Director.

QUALIFICATIONS

An earned master's degree in community development, community economic development, regional development or related degree with appropriate coursework demonstrating knowledge of community processes, community economics, organizational dynamics. Related areas of study in rural sociology/sociology, urban /rural planning, regional or applied economics, urban or rural development, organizational development, public administration, public policy, political science, applied or cultural anthropology, adult education, social work (community emphasis), or community psychology represent some of the fields of successful applicants. A doctorate is preferred.

Demonstrated ability in applying and transferring research-based knowledge in the above subject matter areas.

Ideal candidate will also have successful experiences in coalition and partnership building, community and organizational facilitation, community planning, non-profit management, community economic development, local government, community and economic data analysis, international development, leadership development and conflict resolution.

Completion of the Community Development Academy or Community Development Institute is helpful. Experiences working with diverse audiences in a multicultural environment, and Spanish language proficiency is helpful.

Effective and innovative teaching strategies that engage others, including strong listening, written, and oral communication skills. Must be able to integrate new and emerging technology into teaching strategies. Experience in designing, conducting and evaluating educational programs, and applying

research-based knowledge in subject matter areas related to community cooperation and collaboration, capacity assessment and action planning, needs assessment, citizen participation, leadership, resource management, and volunteerism is desired.

UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

The University of Missouri, also known as Mizzou and MU, is the Flagship University of the four-campus University of Missouri system. It is the state's land-grant university and one of the most comprehensive universities in the United States. MU's broad undergraduate programs and its' graduate, professional and research programs attract annual enrollment of more than 30,000 students. MU is centrally located in Columbia, MO, which is consistently ranked as one of America's most livable cities. MU Extension and Engagement programs are located on all four campuses and in 114 counties and St. Louis city.

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