
*We teach, learn, lead and serve, connecting people with the University of Wisconsin,
and engaging with them in transforming lives and communities.*

Food Safety, Food Security & Health

- In March, Pamela Nelson taught 7 W.I.N.G.S. students **how to read food labels**. The students collected labels from packages and looked for facts on the labels like fat, Vitamin A, Vitamin C, sodium and sugar. Students could see that some foods are better to eat than others. Reading labels is a great way to know if one is eating a healthy diet. Six out of seven students said they would use the “Nutrition Facts label” to choose foods the next time they go shopping.
- Amanda Miller took the “main stage” at the Wisconsin Home Builders Association Show in Fond du Lac on Saturday, March 24, to present on the **basics of home canning**. The presentation was well received. Approximately 30 attendees stayed for the event, with many questions and positive comments following.
- Miller is currently working on the **FoodWise FY19 budget**, which is from October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019. The program is anticipated to bring in \$225,000 into Fond du Lac and Sheboygan Counties through staffing and programming focused on quality, evidence based nutrition education.
- Miller assisted with education and information on **FoodShare/EBT (Electronic Benefits Transfer) and the WIC Farmers Market Voucher Program** for farmers market vendors at the Vendor Application Night held at the Thelma Center on March 20th. During the event, vendors applied and learned more about the details of the Fond du Lac Farmers Market.
- The **"FDL Fresh 5" Program** is gearing up for the start of the farmers market. This program, started by Amanda Miller and Bill Zeleske (farmers market vendor), is an opportunity for Fond du Lac farmers market vendors to donate fresh fruits and vegetables to local food pantries following each Saturday market. Customers are also welcome to bring healthy canned goods or purchase additional produce for donation. Between late August and mid-October of last year, nearly 2,000 pounds of produce was donated.

Stronger Economies

- Dr. Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing held **Pesticide Applicator Training (PAT)** in Fond du Lac (Mar. 5th) and Dodge County (Mar. 7th) with 32 and 44 participants, respectively.
- Diana Hamer met with **entrepreneurs** (two Latina and one African-American) interested in opening businesses to assist them in clarifying their goals. She then connected them with IGNITE! partners, mentors and peers, and sources of funding and education they will need to get started.
- Hammer connected with and referred three established business owners (two Latino and one African-American) to North Fond du Lac High School’s **web design program**, starting in April. Students in Kurt Wismer’s class will build websites for the three businesses at the owners’ directions and teach the owners how to use it themselves in the end.

- **Money Smart Head Start newsletter** continues to be delivered to 120 Head Start families in the county. Twenty of the families receive the Spanish language version of the newsletter.
- **Reality Day** volunteer recruitment is complete with 57 community volunteers for the Fond du Lac High School Reality Day to be held on April 18. Transition of the role has been completed and Shelley Tidemann will be a community member volunteer for the event.
- Twenty-three **Forward Services** clients have attended the Success Series classes taught by Tidemann. Classes taught in March were three different sessions on budget development, communication and stress reduction.
- Nine individuals received their **Rent Smart** certificates in March for attending the 6 hour Rent Smart class taught by Tidemann. Additionally, the Rent Smart State Team was selected to present at the Joint Council of Extension Professionals Conference on the new Rent Smart curriculum the team wrote in May.
- Tidemann serves on the **FDL Money Smart Week Committee**. She will be teaching a session on Credit Reports, as well as a session on Behavioral Economics, plus involved with the Big Read for youth 4 – 9 years of age. Additional sessions will be held with various businesses as set up.
- Tidemann prepared and shared **2018 Plan of Work for Financial Security/Capability Education** with AED Cindy Sarkady, as well as entered all reporting documentation into the Planning and Reporting System, as required by the deadline of March 31.
- No word has been received on the Federal Grant for the **National Research Project** Tidemann and DSS have applied to be a federal/state training site.
- Tidemann designed and disseminated a survey on collaboration effectiveness with the members of the **Fond du lac County Continuum of Care Collaboration**. Survey is investigating collaboration effectiveness, members' involvement and future needs of the COC.

Resilient & Productive Environment

- Efforts by Dr. Ribbing and the Dodge County Farmers for Healthy Soil-Healthy Water group in partnership with the Dodge County Alliance (UW-Extension, Land & Water Conservation, Farm Bureau, DNR, and 3 lake associations) have created much interest. She was approached by and is now meeting with Fond du Lac LWCD to try to begin efforts towards a **Producer Led Watershed group in Fond du Lac County**.
- Drs. Ribbing and Jamie Patton spoke about soil health at an informal Dodge County **Farmers for Healthy Soil-Healthy Water** impromptu spring field day the farmers organized at the Roche Farms near Columbus, WI, on March 27th. Participants included 1 to 2 farmers from Fond du Lac County who might be interested in leading a Producer Led Group, FDL LWCD, and Dodge County farmers. A total of 59 attended. At this meeting Dr. Ribbing spoke about soil microbe associations with the root rhizosphere and about beneficial mycorrhizae fungi, as well as the Cover Crop Incentive Program sign up for funding available through her DATCP grant, plus additional funding now from Lake Sinissippi and Beaver Dam Lake Associations. At this meeting it was announced by a representative that Fox Lake would also contribute funds for cover crop cost share for farmers. Dr. Patton spoke about soil health and led the group in an interactive in-field discussion in a soil pit.
- Hammer taught 125 of Leigh Kohlmann's sixth grade science students at Rock River Intermediate School in Waupun about area watersheds, how drinking water gets contaminated, and the importance of testing well water. Students then demonstrated to parents at the school's Literacy Night how **well water** contamination

occurs. Eight families from the Waupun area chose to test their private well water in the program arranged with UW-Oshkosh Environmental Research and Innovation Center.

Thriving Youth, Families, Organizations & Communities

- Hammer participated in six sessions (14 hours) of the **cultural awareness training** *Our Dialogue* and received a certificate of completion from the UW-Extension/UW-Colleges Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.
- Hammer collaborated with Laurice Snyder of Moraine Park Technical College and Bob Hoffmaster of KFIZ radio for an interview about **race in the classroom**. Ms. Snyder described her experience as a biracial child in Green Bay and experiences of students of color in the classroom today. She recommends that white educators wanting to be more effective in conversations about race start by noticing the role race plays in their everyday lives. This segment can be heard [online](#) (22:26 minutes) and will continue the 4th Wednesday of every month in 2018.
- Hammer contributed to the **Latinos Unidos en FDL** meeting at which they discussed an upcoming open house to learn more about programming at Moraine Park Technical College, plans for a larger Independence Day celebration in September, and Araceli's founding role with the group as she moves and takes a new job. Hammer will anchor the work of the group, both in person and via the Facebook (571 members), until the Bilingual Bicultural Educator position is filled.
- **Co-Parenting** court mandated classes for 23 divorcing parents was taught by Tidemann in February/early March. Thirty-four children were involved with these 23 parents.
- Tidemann will be teaching a session for the **Women's Empowerment** series. Curriculum used -Taking Care of You –Body, Mind and Spirit with focus on stress reduction strategies.
- **Just in Time Parenting** age-paced newsletter presentation for the Ripon Noon Kiwanis is planned for April.
- Tidemann prepared and shared **2018 Plan of Work for Human Development and Relationships Education** with AED Cindy Sarkady, as well as entered all reporting documentation into the Planning and Reporting System as required by the deadline of March 31.
- It is **Community Garden** plot registration time. The majority of the plots for this year are already reserved and paid for.

Office Update

- **Michelle Phillips**, FoodWise Educator, started work here on March 12.
- **Araceli Oswald**, 4-H & Youth Development Assistant, has resigned as of March 16 due to her husband's job promotion out of state.
- **Angela Folske**, Administrative Assistant, is resigning as of April 5. Interviews were held for this position on March 29.
- Interviews are scheduled for April 2 for the Community Resource Development Intern position.
- Will hold interviews on April 12 for the 4-H Coordinator position.



Diana Hammer, Community, Natural Resource & Economic Development Educator

Tina Kohlmann, Dairy & Livestock Agent

Amanda Miller, FoodWise Coordinator/Family Living Educator

Pamela Nelson, FoodWise Educator

Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing, Area Crops & Soils Agent

Patty Percy, Community Garden Coordinator

Melanie Phillips, FoodWise Educator

Shelley Tidemann, Family Living Educator

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