

# North Central Extension Community Development Programs, 2010: Over \$700M of Impacts and 13,000 Jobs Created



Operating as a team, state Extension leaders from the twelve North Central 1862 land grant universities developed common indicators for reporting the impacts of community development educational programs. Each partner university selected a subset of the indicators for reporting. The following table presents the most commonly used indicators: *nine of the twelve* universities adopted indicators in these areas. Thus, the impacts of our educational programs reported here, while impressive, are **conservative estimates**.

<b>Dollar value of grants and resources leveraged or generated by communities</b>	<b>\$236M</b>
<b>Dollar value of programs and activities initiated or completed</b>	<b>\$307M</b>
<b>Jobs created</b>	<b>13,517</b>
<b>Businesses created</b>	<b>439</b>
<b>Community and organizational, policies, plans adopted or implemented</b>	<b>315</b>
<b>Community or organizational plans developed</b>	<b>477</b>
<b>Participants reporting new leadership roles</b>	<b>6,791</b>

Two states reported a total of over \$200M in business leveraging, bringing the overall dollar impact across three indicators to over \$700M. Full details broken down by state, are available at: [http://ncrcrd.msu.edu/ncrcrd/state\\_extension\\_leader\\_section](http://ncrcrd.msu.edu/ncrcrd/state_extension_leader_section)

Our impacts stem from innovative, science-based approaches developed in partnership with our stakeholders. The programming associated with these impacts varies according to community needs and the creativity of university-based and other partners. To provide an idea of the types of programming used to generate our impacts, we provide several examples.

## Community Planning – University of Missouri

After facilitation by MU Extension, Herculaneum and Hillsboro implemented their master plans and obtained more than \$10 million in grants during the past three years. As Herculaneum celebrated its bicentennial, it has moved from a destiny of depression to one of progress and hope—the latest being the planning for a port on the Mississippi River estimated to equate to 9,500 jobs—a great boon to the county and region.

## Converting Schools - North Dakota State University

Through Extension educational programs, three communities have recently re-purposed closed school buildings for local economic development activities. One community converted its school to a fitness center, a satellite health clinic, the local economic developer, and an expanding audio business that employs 14 people. Another community has renovated their school building into a hunting lodge, thrift store, storage rental unit, and community gathering

space. Volunteers run these businesses which are utilized by many locals and travelers. The third community has received multiple grants to re-design their closed school to be LEED certified and used for lodging, a fitness center, a community kitchen and other activities and businesses, adding to their economic base.

### **Growing Demand for Entrepreneurship – University of Nebraska-Lincoln**

Nebraskans are taking note of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s offerings in entrepreneurship, increasing demand for training by over 20% in the past year. Extension entrepreneurship clients started or transitioned 57 businesses over a two year period, while another 2,000 received help with their current business structure.



### **Developing Leaders – University of Minnesota**

In Minnesota, Extension program development staff in the Southwest area of the state responded to city requests to help involve the long-term Latino population in planning the area’s future. As a result of Minnesota Extension Service programming, Latinos accepted new leadership positions to serve the Airport Commission, advocacy and justice organizations, social service organizations and other groups. One Latino participant was elected as County Commissioner.

### **Funding Community Improvement – Purdue University**

A two-day grant writing program, offered by Purdue Extension in Indiana is a great skill builder for the beginner or intermediate grant writer. Today, Indiana is home to new community playgrounds, expanded libraries, improved businesses, schools, and community agencies that are meeting the needs of Indiana residents through newly-funded programs and services. Organizations across the state have received over \$7M from proposals developed in the program. As examples, less than one year after completing the workshop, the Girl Scouts received \$98,000 to expand programs and volunteer training, while Greene County schools raised \$135,000 for infrastructure.

### **Creating and Retaining Jobs – The Ohio State University**

Engaging community partners in Wyandot County, Extension has enabled the retention of several businesses, new business attraction, and expansion projects. In total, these community-based efforts have accounted for the creation or retention of roughly 200 jobs representing over \$4.9 million in payroll and over \$45 million in new investment into the rural community.

