



## Extension Council Update November 19, 2021

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Dear Extension Council Members,

With Thanksgiving next week, we want to take a moment to appreciate the service you have given to Iowans this year. We are thankful for your dedication, time, and your individual drive to make our organization better.

Enjoy some time with family or doing whatever you're most thankful for as we prepare to turn the calendar to 2022. It'll be here before we know it.

Happy Thanksgiving,

Jennifer Vit, IECA Executive Director  
Julie Baumler, IECA Program Assistant

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### **Council Members Needed for Iowa Legislative Insider**

Registration is open for the [2022 Iowa Legislative Insider](#) to take place Wednesday, February 9, 2022, in Des Moines. The Iowa Legislative Insider is an opportunity for extension council members to share the good word about extension in our communities and learn alongside 4-H members. As the saying goes, "If you're not at the table, you're on the table." We all appreciate the funding our Iowa State Legislature provides for extension programming and we want to remind them of the good work done by our extension staff.

Participants will listen to special speakers and visit in person with legislators at the Capitol. The event is open to all extension council members and 4-H members in grades 8-12. Those enrolled in 4HOnline (youth or volunteers) can register through the "Events" tab in 4HOnline. Council members register using the online [registration form](#).

**We are seeking experienced advocates to help out with the day.** If you've been to the

Capitol before to advocate for a cause (Extension and Outreach, Farm Bureau, school board, union, etc.) and would feel comfortable informally guiding groups of first-timers through the process on the morning of Feb. 9, please contact [Jennifer Vit](#).

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## **Additional Paid Holidays for State Staff**

Last week, Governor Kim Reynolds announced that state employees would receive an additional two paid holidays this year. It is up to councils whether to offer the additional paid holidays to county staff, but typically office policy recognizes university holidays. As Vice President John Lawrence shared in his November 17 email, he encourages councils to follow the governor's lead and grant employees two additional paid holidays. Councils can identify the two days, but should also allow flexibility to accommodate previously scheduled programs and commitments that staff may have. Check your employee handbook or policy book to determine how your county handles paid holidays. If your handbook does not recognize university holidays, your extension council will need to vote to add the two additional paid holidays for your county's employees.

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## **Serving All Iowans - Save the Date for Training**

It takes all of us to serve all of us. In this training session for council members, we will engage with ISU's history, status as a Land Grant University, and Extension's Mission and Vision all combine to guide us in serving all Iowans.

**Save the date of Thursday, January 20, 2022, 5:30 - 6:00 PM.** Regenea Hurte, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer for Extension and Outreach, will lead this virtual discussion via Zoom, addressing tangible action steps to continue working to serve all Iowans. A link will be distributed in December.

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## **Fall IECA Board Meeting**

The fall board of directors meeting for the Iowa Extension Council Association is Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup> in Ames. This is the first time the board has met face-to-face since October 2019, due to pandemic limitations. Reach out to your region's board member if you have any questions or issues to share. All agendas and minutes can be found on the [IECA website](#).

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## **Keep Your Contact Info Up-To-Date**

Is your contact information up-to-date? Be sure to let your regional director know if you move, change email, or get a new phone number so they can update your record in MyData. It's important that we have correct contact information on record for you as an elected official.

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## Save the Date

- **Serving All Iowans training** - Zoom - Thursday, January 20, 5:30 - 6:00 PM
- **IECA and 4-H Legislative Insider** - Des Moines - Wednesday, February 9, 2022
- **Extension Council Conference** – Ames - Saturday, March 5, 2022 (target audience is council members, but staff also encouraged to attend)
- **Extension Annual Conference** – Tuesday, March 8, 2022 (all staff and council members may attend)

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