WEBINAR ANNOUNCEMENT

Rural Quality of Life Indicators Project: A Toolkit to Improve Rural Communities

Carrie McKillip and Russell Medley
(University of Illinois Extension)

April 15, 2020 – 3:00 PM (ET)

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Rural Quality of Life Indicators Project was funded through the NCRCRD and developed through the cooperation of a multi-disciplinary, multi-state team of Extension professionals. The project developed a toolkit that not only scores a community on various quality of life indicators but goes further to recommend area specific projects/programs/activities to improve the score on each indicator with low scores. The webinar will focus on the development of the tools as well as the current pilot project progress.

Presented by:
Carrie McKillip, a native of Knox County, holds an Associate of Arts from Carl Sandburg College (Galesburg, IL), a Bachelor of Science from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, and an MBA from Western Illinois University. Prior to joining Extension in 2006, McKillip spent 20 years in not-for-profit management, including six years in higher education administration and business development.

She currently serves as co-chair of the University of Illinois Extension Community and Economic Development Team. McKillip works directly with community groups and agencies in participatory community planning, strategic planning, community development, resource development, and business development education. Partnering with other state agencies and local communities, McKillip has facilitated the development of Multi-jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plans and serves as a delegate to the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN). McKillip also works with communities in forming Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD’s) to help regions become more disaster resilient.

Russell Medley is a Community and Economic Development Educator for the University of Illinois Extension in Unit 7, a region consisting of Henry, Mercer, Rock Island, and Stark Counties. Medley holds a B.A. degree from Knox College (Galesburg, IL) and a M.S. degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Iowa. Medley has a particular focus on workforce development, downtown planning and revitalization, target industry analysis, and the development and quantification of economic development strategies for municipal and regional entities.

Medley has 25 years of experience in the urban planning and economic development fields with stints as Planner/Analyst for a county government and as an Economic Development Specialist and Marketing & Research Director for a countywide economic development organization in the Chicago Suburbs. Medley’s most recent position before affiliating with the University of Illinois Extension was as the Executive Director for Kewanee Economic Development Corporation in Kewanee, IL.

There is no registration and no fee for attending this webinar. To join the webinar go to http://ncrcrd.adobeconnect.com/ncrcrd1, “enter as a guest” is by default already chosen. Type your name into the text box provided and click on “Enter Room”. You are now in the meeting room for the webinar.

To facilitate Q&A’s participants submit questions/comments via the Chat Function in Adobe Connect. The webinar will be recorded and archived at http://www.canr.msu.edu/ncrcrd/webinars

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