



Patrick I. Cudney

MSU Extension
Associate Director

Patrick I. Cudney serves as associate director of Michigan State University Extension. Previously, he held the title of associate director for operations and served in that role since September 1, 2014 through March 1, 2017 when the operations title was removed. Patrick has held a variety of progressively more responsible positions throughout his career with MSU Extension and can be relied upon to provide consistent, engaged leadership to MSU Extension with a forward-thinking, team-centered approach. His administrative portfolio includes overall logistical and business operations for MSU Extension, an organization of 800 individuals and a total budget in excess of \$88 million dollars, including directly supervising the field-based MSU Extension leadership team as well as providing leadership on budget planning and management, professional development, communications and marketing, program reporting and evaluation, diversity, technology and other essential organizational development program support on behalf of the director of MSU Extension.

Mr. Cudney has served MSU Extension since 1996 when he began his career as a 4-H youth agent. He quickly moved up the ranks to become, at age 27, the youngest county Extension director in the state. Three years later, he was appointed as the regional director of the MSU Extension north region. In this role, he helped direct the work of more than 150 Extension and county faculty and staff members in a 21-county region encompassing northern lower Michigan. Following the restructuring of MSU Extension in July 2010, Mr. Cudney assumed the role of district coordinator, serving nine counties in northwest lower Michigan. He remained in this role until his promotion to associate director in September 2014.

Mr. Cudney holds a bachelor's degree in community recreation and park administration from Central Michigan University and a Master of Science degree in administration from that same institution. His direct areas of interest and expertise include community engagement in public-policy decision-making and the science of public administration. He is a member of Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP), the Extension professional's fraternity. He participated in the North Central NELD (National Extension Leadership Development) program in 2001-02 and subsequently served on the NELD planning committee in the 2003-04 program years. He was a member of the inaugural graduating class of the LEAD21 (Leadership for the 21st Century) national land-grant leadership development program in 2005-06. His work and efforts have been acknowledged multiple times through various recognitions and awards received including the ESP Meritorious Service Award and the ESP Administrative Leadership Award.

Mr. Cudney puts his extensive years of Extension and outreach experience to work to help foster collaborations committed to serving the needs of Michigan's individuals, families, businesses and communities.

Patrick and his wife, Abigail, have three children, McKenna, John and Kate.

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