



# EXTENSION COUNCIL PDC ELECTIONS

**OCTOBER 3, 2024**

Help us to elect our next group of  
Program Development Committee  
members who work to identify educational  
resources and programming to address local  
needs.

**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension

Sedgwick County

# WHAT DOES A PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEMBER DO?



## Purpose

Program Development Committee (PDC) members work together with extension agents to develop local programming.

## Responsibilities

Working with agents, PDC members understand and promote the mission of K-State Research and Extension and serve their communities by completing the following tasks:

- Assess needs and issues of agricultural producers, communities, families, and youth.
- Identify new local audiences and develop a proactive plan to expand the scope of extension programming.
- Use K-State Research and Extension resources to meet local programming needs.
- Develop program action plans to address community needs and submit those plans to the extension board and area director for review and approval.
- Implement, participate in, and evaluate extension programs.
- Promote K-State Research and Extension program successes and impacts.

## Qualifications

- At least 18 years old and a resident of the county in which the PDC is represented.
- Interested in working within the philosophy and mission of K-State Research and Extension.
- Willing to work closely with the local extension agent and other members of the PDC.
- Sincere interest in improving the quality of life for community residents.

## Time Required

A PDC member serves a two-year term and are expected to participate in PDC meetings scheduled throughout the year.

# 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

**JOANNA FARMER**



Please tell us a little bit about yourself: (occupation, involvement in Extension Programs, community activities).

I am a dedicated high school science and agriculture teacher with two decades of experience at Wichita Public Schools. Currently, I teach agriculture at Wichita Southeast High School, where I had the honor of founding and nurturing our FFA program. Over the past eight years, our chapter has grown from a modest group of 15 students to the largest FFA chapter in Kansas, boasting over 530 active members.

In addition to my teaching responsibilities, I was privileged to serve on the 2024 Kansas Teacher of the Year team, an experience that was both humbling and inspiring. My commitment to community service is deeply ingrained in my work. I manage the city's largest community garden and run a food pantry that provides vital support to students and their families. Last year, in collaboration with the City of Wichita, we planted over 10,000 seeds, with plans to transplant the seedlings this fall. I also coordinate monthly weekend volunteer groups to address various community needs.

On a personal note, I have been happily married to my husband, Daniel, for 25 years, and together we have the joy of raising six adopted children. My work in education and community service is driven by a deep passion for fostering growth and making a positive impact both in the classroom and within the community.

What are your experiences with adult and/or youth educational programs, including those provided by K-State Research and Extension?

My involvement with educational programs spans both my youth and adult years, deeply rooted in the 4-H community. As a young person, I was actively engaged in the Chico 4-H Club in Chico, Texas, where I spent ten enriching years. During this time, I served as an officer in our local club, the county group, and the district council, gaining invaluable leadership and organizational skills. Following high school, I took the initiative to start a new 4-H program in Newark, Texas. This effort was aimed at providing opportunities for youth in an underserved area of our community, ensuring that more young people could benefit from the educational and developmental programs that 4-H offers.

As an adult, my commitment to 4-H continued with my own children, who participated in various 4-H activities. This involvement not only allowed me to support their growth but also to remain engaged with the 4-H community, observing firsthand the positive impact these programs have on young people.

These experiences reflect my enduring dedication to youth development and education, with a deep appreciation for the role organizations like K-State Research and Extension play in fostering growth and learning in communities.

What goals do you envision for Extension?

Drawing from my extensive background with 4-H and educational outreach, I envision several key objectives for the Extension program: Assess and Address Community Needs, Expand Outreach and Inclusion, Utilize Extension Resources Effectively, Implement and Evaluate Programs, and Promote Successes and Impact. In summary, I envision a role where I can contribute to the development and enhancement of Extension programs by applying my background in education, community service, and program development to meet and exceed the goals of K-State Research and Extension.

# 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



**BRYONNA KOPPENHAVER**

Please tell us a little bit about yourself: (occupation, involvement in Extension Programs, community activities).

What are your experiences with adult and/or youth educational programs, including those provided by K-State Research and Extension?

What goals do you envision for Extension?

# 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

**JANET SPRECKER**



Please tell us a little bit about yourself: (occupation, involvement in Extension Programs, community activities.

My educational background includes a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from K-State and a M.S. in Industrial Engineering from Wichita State. Previously, I worked for NASA at the Johnson Space Center in Houston and for the FAA in the Wichita Aircraft Certification Office. From 2010-2020, I served as the community leader for the Derby 4-H Club. I also served as a member of the Sedgwick County 4-H Advisory Council for 6 years. For the past two years, I have been a member of the Sedgwick County Extension Executive Board and am currently serving as the chairperson of that board. I am also currently serving as the chairperson for the Derby Education Foundation Board.

What are your experiences with adult and/or youth educational programs, including those provided by K-State Research and Extension?

I grew up in southwest Kansas and was active in the 4-H program for over 10 years as a youth. My two sons have also been in the 4-H program here in Sedgwick County, with each of them completing 11 years of 4-H. They both served on the state-level Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council for multiple years. I believe the 4-H program gives students great learning opportunities in both their project work and in leadership experiences at the club, county and state level.

What goals do you envision for Extension?

The Extension Service is a key educational resource to help communities thrive and prosper. The Extension Service helps bring the knowledge and expertise developed at the land-grant university level into local communities. The local access to this knowledge and expertise can help individuals and communities make better economic, leadership development and health-related decisions that ultimately impact everyone. Specific goals that I would envision for the Sedgwick County 4-H program include: 1) Strengthening 4-H programs at the local club level across Sedgwick County; 2) Work to develop more volunteers to help lead county-wide project groups; 3) Continue to support 4-H programs that reach children who do not participate in traditional 4-H clubs.

# 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

## MELANIE TURNER



Please tell us a little bit about yourself: (occupation, involvement in Extension Programs, community activities).

I am a physical therapist who has spent the past 14 years working in the home health sector. I am a strong believer in Extension programs and the unbiased research-based information Extension provides. I have been involved in the 4-H program area for 26 years. I was an active member of 4-H for 10 years and finished my final years of 4-H in Sedgwick County. My four children are 3rd generation 4-H members where they show sheep, participate on the meat judging team and participate in club and county events in Sedgwick County. I am a member of the Board of Education for the Derby School District where I help establish policies for the district, set short and long-term goals for the school system, and work closely with the administrators, school staff, and the community to set district goals. I served 6 years on the Derby Public Library Board of Trustees and was Chairman my final 3 years. I have also volunteered on numerous committees in the Derby School District as a parent representative.

What are your experiences with adult and/or youth educational programs, including those provided by K-State Research and Extension?

I have volunteered as the community leader for the Derby 4-H Club for the past 5 years and have worked with the county 4-H agents to make sure information is communicated to our local members. I have also volunteered to assist the agents at the county level to help with record book judging and program delivery. I was a member of the Clark County 4-H Fair Board when my husband and I lived in western KS several years ago. Serving on this fair board was important to me to support the local extension organization and 4-H program. As a member of the Student Ministries Commission at my local church, I plan special events for the youth. I have served as a parent volunteer and parent group treasurer at my children's elementary, middle and high schools for over 15 years.

What goals do you envision for Extension?

I want to evaluate and strengthen 4-H programs at the local club level in Sedgwick County. I want to continue to support 4-H programs targeted at children that are not involved in traditional 4-H clubs. I want to recruit and train more volunteers to help lead county-wide project groups and coach judging teams. I also want to encourage and support the training of volunteers that can help reach the diverse communities in Sedgwick County. I want to develop a program to strengthen the relationships between county 4-H agents and families.

# AGRICULTURE/HORTICULTURE



**TRAVIS INSKEEP**



Please tell us a little bit about yourself: (occupation, involvement in Extension Programs, community activities).

Production Manager for Countryside Lawn and Tree Care. This is my 27th year at Countryside. Certified applicator in categories 5,6,7a. Certified Arborist with Kansas Arborist Association. HOA acting Vice President of Granview HOA.

What are your experiences with adult and/or youth educational programs, including those provided by K-State Research and Extension?

I have helped both Bob Nier and Mathew McKernan with the recertification day in the fall as countryside is a sponsor. I regularly attend K-State field day and as many educational training programs as I can.

What goals do you envision for Extension?

Use my regular interactions with the public regarding lawn and tree care to provide the extension information to better serve the community.

# AGRICULTURE/HORTICULTURE



## JOSEPH NEVILLE

Please tell us a little bit about yourself: (occupation, involvement in Extension Programs, community activities).

My wife Theresa and I have two boys, Nathaniel and Simon. I farm in the Goddard/Andale area with my mother and older sister. I also sell seed for Beck's Hybrids. I have attended different seminars over the years and activities hosted, the Sedgwick county extension wheat plot has been hosting on our families ground for many years. I help at my parish with different activities, I have led high school formation small groups and currently help lead the high school CYM group. I served on the Sedgwick County Farm bureau board for 6 years and will serve as the district 4 YF&R rep starting in December.

What are your experiences with adult and/or youth educational programs, including those provided by K-State Research and Extension?

Co-hosted ag education events through Farm Bureau and extension at the office. I have helped volunteer for the 4th grade roundup event they used to have. Part of Farm Bureau scholarship committee. Read books to elementary kids in their classroom and other youth education events hosted with Farm Bureau. Lead high school formation small groups and CYM at my parish.

What goals do you envision for Extension?

We have a unique opportunity in Sedgwick county with the large city of Wichita and rural parts. I think a good balance of being there for farmers as a resource and educating the public on the truths of agriculture are important.



# AGRICULTURE/HORTICULTURE



**JON SEYMOUR**



Please tell us a little bit about yourself: (occupation, involvement in Extension Programs, community activities).

My family and I lived in Park City for the last 15 years, and have just moved to Valley Center. I have a Bachelors Degree in Park and Rec Administration from Pittsburg State University. I am a Sr Landscape Specialist at Wichita State University, and am also a Licensed Aquatics Applicator and treat ponds for algae and aquatic weeds. My wife is a Therapist and we have 2 daughters, ages 13 and 11. As a student at PSU, I was chosen by the faculty to serve on the Student Curriculum Planning Board. I have also served on the Eureka, KS Chamber of Commerce Board and the Park City Park and Tree Board for about 9 years where I served as President and Vice President.

What are your experiences with adult and/or youth educational programs, including those provided by K-State Research and Extension?

We have been able to take advantage of several Health and Nutrition and Horticulture Programs, as well as Agriculture Programs like Applicator Recertification Workshops through the years.

What goals do you envision for Extension?

The goal should always be to learn and grow. The blueprint is laid out in the PDC Member Position Description under Responsibilities. Every Responsibility should also be a goal. Understand and promote the mission of K-State Research and Extension and serve the community as best we can.

# COMMUNITY VITALITY



**JEANNIE CIEMNY**



Please tell us a little bit about yourself: (occupation, involvement in Extension Programs, community activities).

My name is Jeannie Ciemny, my husband and I have four grown sons, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. I've been a first grade teacher for thirty-eight years and also twelve years as a reading specialist. After retiring in 2020, I've gone through the Master Gardener Program. Some of my interests are: golfing, reading, sewing, gardening, and traveling.

What are your experiences with adult and/or youth educational programs, including those provided by K-State Research and Extension?

Having been in the education field, I have had the opportunity to work with parents, fellow teachers, administrators, and students. I have served on several committees over my years of teaching and have gained an understanding of skills and strategies needed to work with all levels. Some of the following committees are: chairman – district reading textbook committee, chairman – parent-volunteer committee, district K-12 language arts curriculum chairman, reading QPA committee, board of director on the Derby Historical Museum.

What goals do you envision for Extension?

To identify new areas that can be developed in educational workshops and activities.

# COMMUNITY VITALITY



**RUSSELL FOX**



Please tell us a little bit about yourself: (occupation, involvement in Extension Programs, community activities.

I am a professor of political science at Friends University; more relevant to the work of the Sedgwick County Extension Center, I have long pushed to increase the involvement of Friends University students and others in local agriculture and environmental sustainability, through classes I have developed, through working with other stakeholders to promote the Friends University community garden, through getting students involved in various Extension Center events (urban agriculture tours, the Growing Growers program, etc.), and through arranging my own trips to familiarize students with local food producers and others who exemplify sustainability practices. I have also been a long-time participant in conversations about developing food policies here in Wichita, such as through the ICT Food Circle and the Health and Wellness Coalition of Wichita.

What are your experiences with adult and/or youth educational programs, including those provided by K-State Research and Extension?

I am in my 22nd year as a college professor, so my involvement with educational programs is quite broad, including making use of the educational outreach which people at the Sedgwick County Extension Center have offered to my students in the past.

What goals do you envision for Extension?

Going forward, I would hope to be able to assist the Sedgwick County Extension Center in providing the resources and, as appropriate, leadership necessary to help move our communities towards a more complete implementation of the Food System Master Plan for Wichita and Sedgwick County, including the creation of a City-County Food and Farm Council. And also, I would just like to learn more about the inner operations of an organization that has benefited the health and well-being of my garden, my family, my students, and many others for all the years that we've lived here in Kansas.

# COMMUNITY VITALITY

**JOHN OSWALD**



Please tell us a little bit about yourself: (occupation, involvement in Extension Programs, community activities).

I am a civil engineer graduating from Kansas State University and the Airport Engineering and Planning Manager for the City of Wichita, Wichita Airport Authority. I own farm land in Russell County.

What are your experiences with adult and/or youth educational programs, including those provided by K-State Research and Extension?

I have been a member of the Extension Executive Board for 2023 and 2024. I initiated an application for a Rotary grant for the Kitchen Restore program.

What goals do you envision for Extension?

To be part of effort to increase awareness of the programs the Extension service provides to the county.

# FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

## MARIXENDRA ALVAREZ



Please tell us a little bit about yourself: (occupation, involvement in Extension Programs, community activities. Marixendra Alvarez is the founder and CEO of CJS Translation Services, LLC an agency providing translation and interpretation services in more than 20 languages in Wichita, KS, and surrounding areas.

Marixendra is an Entrepreneur, Educator, Community Leader, Advocate, and Community Health Worker(Promotora). Marixendra is a board member of the Wichita Area Sister Cities, the Wichita Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, La Familia Senior Center, and Co-Chair of the Kansas Health Worker Coalition, who loves to give back to the Wichita Hispanic Community. Marixendra is also in the Advisory role for Friends-HALO program, she is the biggest advocate and supporter for our youth. Marixendra serves as a liaison between organizations and Spanish-speaking families.

Marixendra is now serving as a Community Health Specialist for Immunize Kansas Coalition, to promote, elevate, connect, and disseminate information about vaccines that prevent diseases. She is also the former Director of Education and participation of Interpreters for Alce su Voz, where her extensive experience and community testimonies play a key role in educating about the importance of qualified Interpreters needed across all of Kansas.

Most recently she has joined forces with the Multicultural Education and Celebration Association to expand her efforts to educate and create awareness of all cultures globally that exist in our community. She is also part of Champions for Wichita, a networking group of one-of-a-kind businesses that help promote each other. Furthermore, she is a member of our community and a devoted mother of 3 children whom she loves. Everything she does is to set a good example and to provide a better future for her children, that's the best legacy she can leave behind. A better world for her children and grandchildren to come.

What are your experiences with adult and/or youth educational programs, including those provided by K-State Research and Extension?

I am the biggest advocate for educational programs for both adults and youth, I have mentored the HALO students, and sponsored some civic engagement activities for them; including coordinating and planning for such activities. I have served as a liaison between organizations and communities for nutrition programs, workshops, and community events.

What goals do you envision for Extension?

I envision a community pathway to assess needs, making resources accessible. Where the Extension connects organically with the communities at large, in a way that fosters trust and viability.

# FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES



**SYLVIA RAMIREZ**

Please tell us a little bit about yourself: (occupation, involvement in Extension Programs, community activities.

What are your experiences with adult and/or youth educational programs, including those provided by K-State Research and Extension?

What goals do you envision for Extension?

# FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES



**PATTY ROSENHAGEN**



Please tell us a little bit about yourself: (occupation, involvement in Extension Programs, community activities)

I am a retired Advanced Practice RN.

As a volunteer at the Sedgwick County Extension office, I work with the following programs: Master Gardeners, Advisory Board, PDC, SHICK, and the Joint Extension Council of Executive Boards.

I also volunteer at my home church, Cheney Twenty United Christian Church.

What are your experiences with adult and/or youth educational programs, including those provided by K-State Research and Extension? What goals do you envision for Extension?

SHICK (Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansans) is the main education program I work with. My goal with SHICK is to assist individuals to better understand Medicare and navigate across its many programs.

My goal for Extension is to serve all of Sedgwick County residences as well as provide ongoing assessment of the greatest needs of those served.

# FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

**NATASHA SANTIAGO-MASON**



Please tell us a little bit about yourself: (occupation, involvement in Extension Programs, community activities).

Eighteen years' experience as an empathetic, licensed social worker practicing, organizing, collaborating, facilitating, and training within public and private agencies with the past 4.5 years coaching the child welfare workforce to create equitable solutions, equitable policies and practices that enhance professional development, program management and delivery, and promote organizational change through assessment planning and evaluations driving systemic change. I have a passion for advocacy to increase collaboration across human service systems to improve the lives of vulnerable families. I am a mother of a 17yr old Senior, set to graduate for Northwest High School in Spring 2025. I have lived and worked in Sedgwick County since 2005, after obtaining my Bachelor of Social Work degree from Kansas State University. I have a strong connection to child welfare practitioners, administrators, and mental health providers in Sedgwick County as my career has served this community.

What are your experiences with adult and/or youth educational programs, including those provided by K-State Research and Extension?

My work history includes being an Independent Living Coordinator with the Department for Children and Families along with years of experience working with vulnerable youth aging out of foster care or residing in foster care with little to no community connections. This included assisting them in enrolling in post-secondary education and/or technical certification programs.

What goals do you envision for Extension?

Continuing to bring community partners together, both public and private agencies, in a collaborative role to set short and long-term goals around improving the lives of citizens in the county and surrounding areas. Highlighting what is going well and where do we want to go.