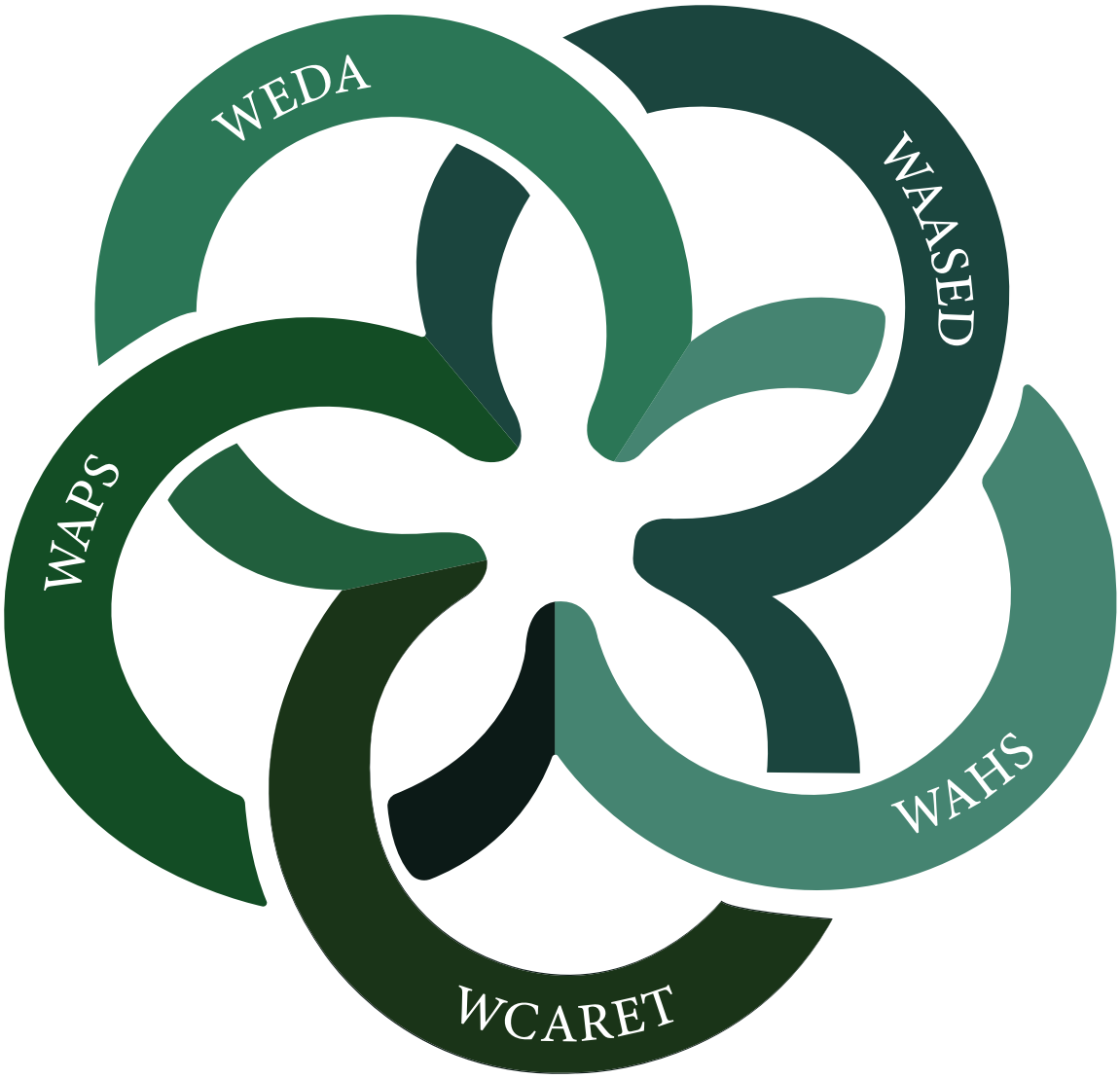
WESTERN REGION JOINT SUMMER MEETING



2020
AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

June 22, 2020, 4pm Pacific Time
Live via Zoom

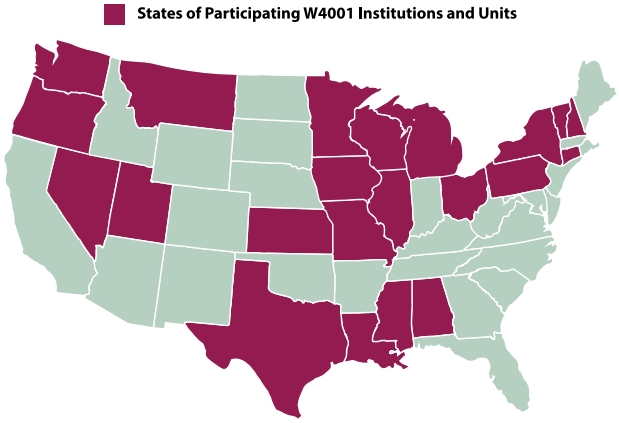
WESTERN REGION MULTISTATE RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARD

SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE IN RURAL AMERICA (W4001)

W4001 conducts comprehensive analyses of population processes (e.g., aging, migration, depopulation, declining health) affecting rural areas and provides stakeholders with policy-relevant findings on the causes and consequences of rural demographic, socioeconomic, and environmental changes. Assessing differences in these processes across rural communities and their link to inequality and well-being is imperative because the impacts of science-based solutions may be threatened by changing trends in economic wellbeing, population loss, views toward science, and increasing sickness and mortality. In an era of heightened interest in rural America, the work of W4001 provides critical context for scientists, policymakers, and rural communities who must decide where science-based knowledge and public interventions are required and what actions to take.

W4001 was among the first to provide essential information about COVID-19's effects on rural communities. This included the development of COVID Crush (a model of disease transmission that helps users understand scenarios of disease spread impacts) and briefs on geographic disparities in testing, case and death undercounts; rural vulnerabilities related to age and chronic disease prevalence, economic impacts, spread of misinformation, and implications of reopening. These efforts inform states' social distancing policies, resource allocation, testing, and closure and reopening strategies. Ultimately, these efforts will save lives.

Previous committee work helped W4001 establish the critical scientific groundwork and substantial human capital necessary to secure over $13 million in external research funding from NIH, NSF, USDA, NASA, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and multiple other sources within the first two years of the current project cycle.



ADMINISTRATIVE ADVISOR
ANTON BEKKERMAN, PhD

ACCEPTING AWARD
SHANNON MONNAT, PhD

WESTERN REGION EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AWARD

STEVEN J. LORING, PhD
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

NEW MEXICO AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

One of Steve Loring's primary career goals has been to improve the perception of the Land-Grant System. He has striven to find better ways of communicating how faculty, staff, and students make a difference at the local, state, regional, and national levels.

Steve has served WAAESD as an active participant, officer, Administrative Advisor for several projects, and on the Board of Directors for the Western Rural Development Center. He chaired APLU BAA's Communications and Marketing Committee, NRSP-1 National Information Management and Support System Oversight Committee, and National Impacts Database Steering Committee. He served and facilitated USDA NIFA's Plan of Work Streamlining Panel, Plan of Work Panel of Experts, and AREERA POW Redesign Project–Institutional Profile Working Group. He served as USDA CSREES visiting faculty to facilitate strategic planning and performance self-studies and their first portfolio reviews.

Steve has served as Assistant and Associate Director of the New Mexico Agricultural Experiment Station System, in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) at New Mexico State University. He is Director of the Chihuahuan Desert Rangeland Research Center and Interim Superintendent of the Leyendecker Plant Science Research Center and the Fabian Garcia Research Center. He has served as Interim Head of the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology and the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education, Interim Coordinator of the New Mexico Agricultural Leadership Program, and Acting Superintendent of the Mora Forestry Research Center and the Farmington Agricultural Science Center. He received the College of ACES Fabian Garcia Award of Excellence.

ALEC KOWALEWSKI, PhD
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE IN THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Kowalewski received a Bachelor of Art degree in Studio Art and Master's and Ph.D. in Crop and Soil Science from Michigan State University. He has been a faculty member at Oregon State University since 2012 where he teaches courses in turfgrass management, golf course management, irrigation and drainage, and plant nutrition in both traditional classroom and online formats. Dr. Kowalewski blends hands-on education or experiential learning with scientific principles and concepts to achieve his goal of providing undergraduates educational tools they can use in the field during internships and after career placement. His prolific extension and research adds to that focus, most recently on a USDA NIFA SCRI grant "Research and Extension to Address Herbicide Resistance Epidemic in Annual Bluegrass in Managed Turf Systems" whose education and extension outcomes includes incorporation into 24 individual classes taught at OSU and 11 other division-one universities. A former student speaks to the relevance of Dr. Kowalewski's approach, "Besides providing an attractive diversity of potential career paths, Dr. Kowalewski possessed the allure of real-world professional training, to the extent that graduating students had the freedom to seek positions across not only the country, but internationally as well."

AMANDA CRUMP, PhD
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

DEPARTMENT OF PLANT SCIENCES IN THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

Dr. Crump holds a Bachelor's degree in Agricultultural Education from the University of Idaho and a Master of Science in Plant Pathology and Weed Science from Colorado State University. She earned a Ph.D. in Education from the University of California, Davis. She has been a faculty member at the University of California, Davis since 2018. She teaches a depth of courses in program development, social change, and analysis in relation to international ag development; program planning and evaluation; and extension outreach and communication. Within her first 18 months she taught 7 courses including redesigning the curriculum and restructuring lectures, class activities, assessments and discussion sections grounded in modern effective pedagogy and an understanding of how students learn. Noting Dr. Crumps' careful attention to crafting meaningful learning experiences and environments, one student said, "The empowerment and respect of each student's agency and personal story is what impresses me the most. In academia, it can sometimes feel as though your professors forget you are anything more than a student. But in Amanda's classroom, you are able and encouraged to bring your full self to her class; she embraces that each student has passions, obligations, and a past that influence our involvement with both agricultural development and higher education. She respects us not only as students, but as dynamic people, and that respect is eagerly reciprocated. Ultimately, Amanda identifies how these differences make each student uniquely qualified to benefit our communities, the field of IAD, and the world."

MATTHEW KENNEDY
SENIOR INSTRUCTOR

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL AND RANGELAND SCIENCES IN THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

Matthew Kennedy holds an Associate of Science degree in General Agriculture from Casper Community College. He earned a Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Animal Science from Oregon State University. He has been a full-time faculty member at Oregon State University since 2008. He teaches a plethora of courses in the Animal Sciences program including Beef and Swine Production courses, Beef/Dairy Industries, Applied Animal Nutrition and Ration Formulation, and Controversial Social Issues in Animal Agriculture. Mr. Kennedy is a hard believer in experiential learning, philosophically drawn to the FFA motto, "Learning to Do, Doing to Learn." He manages the Swine Center and the Steer-A-Year Program, advising 30–35 students, supervising daily animal care activities, managing cattle procurement, and stakeholder relations. Administrators have "witnessed his care and personal way of treating his students, who in turn respect him and see in him a role model. For him, failure is not an option in his teaching; he believes that all students can learn, although it may take an extra explanation or a different method, and he takes special care to provide that extra help." In recognizing his passion and continuous striving to better his students' experience, knowledge, and confidence, a former student states, "Matt has a rich passion to reach in a way that gives his students the ability to apply this information and skills……Through hands-on learning and guidance, I have gained confidence in performing skills that are essential in everyday livestock production. There are countless times that Matt has taken the extra time to have an in-depth conversation about different elements of agricultural practices."

UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY

RURAL ONLINE INITIATIVE

The Rural Online Initiative (ROI) is a USU Extension program that provides rural residents with specialized training in the best practices of remote work. In 2018, the Utah Legislature funded the program as a solution to increasing rural unemployment rates. The ROI program's Master Remote Work Professional (MRWP) certificate course was designed to provide Utah's rural workforce with the skills needed to secure remote employment. Since October 2018, 1,040 participants completed the MRWP course and all participants showed statistically significant increases in knowledge across its nine modules. Nearly 70% of participants had no prior remote work experience, but after completing the course 96% felt empowered to seek remote work. Of the 40% in search of remote work, 25% were placed (97 jobs) within 3-4 months or less. The economic impact of creating these 97 remote jobs in rural counties is equivalent to 3,002 jobs in urban Utah counties.

TEAM MEMBERS

Paul Hill, *Extension Associate Professor, Washington County*
Russell Goodrich, *Senior Program Coordinator, Carbon County*
Emy Swadley, *Project Coordinator II, Washington County*
Jordan Leonard, *Program Coordinator II, Emery County*
Mike Sarles, *Program Coordinator II, Garfield County*
Trenton Willson, *Program Coordinator II, Sevier County*
Amanda D. Ali PhD, *Program Evaluator, Cache County*

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Montana State Extension Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program's mission is to reduce health and environmental risk from pest management, improve IPM practices, and increase IPM adoption. We have a diverse and cohesive team of outreach specialists, scientists, and stakeholders that work together to achieve common goals in agriculture, communities, diagnostics, and pesticide education. Here we highlight achievements in programming that have impacted the citizens of Montana, including the Schutter Diagnostic Laboratory. The diagnostic lab processes approximately 3,000 samples per year and has a direct economic impact in the millions. Extension and research activities are leveraged from samples to meet the needs of our clientele and stakeholders.

TEAM MEMBERS

Mary Burrows, PhD, *Professor, Extension Plant Pathology Specialist*
Amy Bowser, *Assistant Professor, Pesticide Safety Education Program*
Sarah Eilers, *IPM Program Assistant*
Brett Gosselin, *IT Specialist*
Eva Grimme, PhD, *Associate Extension Specialist, Plant Disease Diagnostician*
Laurie Kerzicnik, PhD, *Associate Extension Specialist, Insect Diagnostician*
Greta Linse, PhD, *Project Manager, Human Ecology Learning and Problem Solving Lab*
Jane Mangold, PhD, *Associate Professor and Extension Invasive Plant Specialist*
Ruth O'Neill, *Agricultural Insect Diagnostician*
Noelle Orloff, *Associate Extension Specialist, Plant Identification Diagnostician*
Dara Palmer, *Master Gardener Coordinator*
Tim Seipel, PhD, *Extension Cropland Weed Specialist*
Cecil Tharp, PhD, *Extension Pesticide Safety Education Specialist*
Kevin Wanner, PhD, *Extension Cropland Entomology Specialist*
Stakeholder Advisory Committee: *Provides feedback and opportunities for IPM, attends annual stakeholder retreat with IPM team.*

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

OSU JUNTOS PROGRAM

The OSU Juntos Program was implemented through OSU Extension, based on community need for college-readiness programs for Latino families. Juntos has continuously adapted to become one of Oregon's premier rural college-access programs for Spanish speaking families. The initial six-week curriculum was built from the North Carolina State University model, and over the past eight years has transformed into a signature social-justice initiative for the OSU Extension Service with 100% high school graduation rates for participants, 90% college attendance, and over 4,600 family members participating. Our Ford Family Foundation funded Research Team has discovered that over two-thirds of our students face discrimination, and almost a quarter of parents face discrimination in our schools. As the land grant university, we believe this issue is ours to tackle, and we intend to continue developing system changing curriculum, training, and research to impact all families in the state.

TEAM MEMBERS

Andrea Flores, *Open Campus Coordinator, Columbia Gorge*
Anna Browne, *Juntos Coordinator, Eastern Oregon*
Amy Young, *Juntos Research Coordinator, Corvallis, Oregon*
Christina Diaz-Toledo, *Juntos Coordinator, Redmond, Oregon*
Gina Galaviz-Yap, *Statewide Juntos Director, Corvallis, Oregon*
Jeff Sherman, *Open Campus Program Leader, Corvallis, Oregon*
José Garcia, *Juntos Coordinator, Willamette Valley*
Monse Algeria, *Juntos Coordinator, Southern Oregon*
Nicole Strong, *Central Oregon Regional Director, Bend, Oregon*