

Leadership Change in Cooperative Extension

As you all know, Cooperative Extension is in the midst of a comprehensive reorganization project. The nEXT Generation endeavor is a vital pivot point for the division and our institution. After thoughtful deliberation and consultation with UW-Extension leadership, I have decided that this is the right time for a leadership change in Cooperative Extension as we move into the future. Dean Klemme understands the new direction that needs to be taken for the division and has agreed to step down by November 1, 2016.

I know you join me in my appreciation of Dean Klemme's leadership, both in Wisconsin and on the national stage. He is unparalleled in his capacity to know and understand the Cooperative Extension mission. He has built and maintained an incredible number of relationships in the organization and with partners/stakeholders from counties, tribes, campuses, statewide organizations, and with Extension Directors across the country. The foundation of those relationships has been his knowledge of and appreciation for the work of our colleagues in counties and tribal nations and on many 4-year campuses. Dean Klemme has been in national leadership positions and has worked exceptionally well with our Congressional delegation. Of course, he has also functioned as an effective team member in UW-Extension and as a central part of the nEXT Generation planning process.

The transition to new leadership will occur by November 1st. Until that time, Dean Klemme will function as Dean and Director of Cooperative Extension. Next week, I will appoint an Interim Dean who will work closely with Dean Klemme during the transition period. Dean Klemme will serve as a consultant to the nEXT Generation project and will transition out of his role as co-executive sponsor. Dean Klemme will continue to represent UW-Extension and Cooperative Extension in regional and national meetings this fall and will be instrumental in transferring his considerable divisional and institutional knowledge in the upcoming transitional period.

Any change of this magnitude is difficult and unsettling, but I know you join me in recognizing the importance of our broader mission and the future of Cooperative Extension. Provost Aaron Brower and I are committed to working with divisional leadership, partners and clients to ensure a successful transition, continuation of nEXT Generation momentum, and timely internal and external communication. We will remain in contact with you throughout the transition and appreciate your patience, cooperation, and understanding during this time.

Sincerely Yours,

Cathy Sandeen
Chancellor, UW Colleges and UW-Extension