Full name of your Program Work Team (PWT):
Family Economics and Resource Management Program Work Team (FERM PWT)

Please identify your PWT’s greatest accomplishments over the past year.

**Conference Participation**

Members of the FERM PWT attended the National Consumer Empowerment Conference presented by Consumer Action in November 2017. The conference featured sessions on topics related to Consumer Protections, Energy Loans, the Sharing Economy, Consumer Surveillance by companies, Youth Financial Education, Used Car Buying, Issues with Student Loans, and Apprenticeship Programs. Speakers were drawn from Public Citizen, Center for American Progress, California Reinvestment Coalition, the Aspen Institute, Legal Aid, the World Privacy Forum, Consumer Federation of American, Consumer Action and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Information presented at the conference was shared with educators across the state to assist them in local programming and building their knowledge base. The University of Maryland’s annual Personal Finance for Professionals Conference was held as an online conference in 2018. The online conference provided information on personal financial topics related to the latest trends in financial planning, the growing racial wealth divide, credit scores, a study of how American families are handling their money, and for-profit higher education in the US. Information gained from the conferences, dates for all future conferences and online educational opportunities related to family resource management are routinely shared with educators around the state via the resource management e-list maintained by the FERM PWT and also posted on the FERM PWT website.

**FERM Resource Management E-list**

This list is used exclusively by CCE educators for sharing reliable information, program resources and updates on national issues/legislation to use for professional enhancement and programming. Members represent a cross section of CCE Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS) and Energy Use Management program areas. Currently, the e-list is sent out to 55 CCE county based Family and Consumer Science educators.

**FERM Website**

FERM PWT website has been moved to the CCE Albany website and continues to be managed by FERM PWT member Maria DeLucia-Evans, CCE Albany County. The site can be viewed at: http://albany.cce.cornell.edu/home-family/statewide-family-economics-and-resource-management-ferm-program-work-team.
Financial Capability Education

Cornell Cooperative Extension county educators around the state provide workshops and programs in the areas of energy conservation, basic budgeting, credit and debt management, long term planning, household record organization, identity theft prevention, emergency preparedness, aging in place and landlord/tenant rights. CCE county associations partner with a number of community based organizations to reach underserved and at-risk audiences. Local CCE educators report partnering with school districts, community colleges, Workforce Development agencies, BOCES, county Aging agencies and Senior Centers, Department of Social Services, Mental Health, Libraries, Catholic Charities, ProAction, Community Action agencies, Head Start, Early Head Start, PathStone Inc., Wheels to Work, Housing Councils, Family Literacy groups, Community Centers, and Addiction Recovery Centers. CCE county educators are a trusted resource in their counties for timely, fact-checked information county residents can use to make sound decisions.

Youth Financial Literacy Education

In addition to their work with adult audiences, Cornell Cooperative Extension educators also provide life skills workshops and classes to youth around the state. Some examples of youth financial literacy education currently being offered around the state: Independent Living Skills for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care, workshops providing education, tools, tips regarding money, earned income, and budgeting to youth taking part in a summer youth employment program, personal finance for college students, financial fitness for teens, credit card smarts for teens, Junior Achievement “Economics for Success”, Money FUNdamentals afterschool programs, and healthy money habits for kids and their parents too.

FERM PWT Meeting January 31

FERM PWT members traveled to the CCE Albany offices in Voorheesville for a PWT meeting to work on activities proposed in the 2018 request for funding. A draft agenda was developed for the inservice with topics identified that will be of use educators working in the areas represented by the three sponsoring Program Work Teams. Dates for the inservice were identified and it was decided to make the inservice a collaborative effort of the FERM PWT, the Poverty and Economic Hardship PWT and the Parenting Education PWT. Members who were unable to attend in person joined the meeting via Zoom.

Increasing Financial Security Inservice – June 2018

The Increasing Financial Security Inservice was held on the Cornell Campus in Warren Hall with 20 participants working in the areas of poverty reduction, financial literacy and parenting education. The inservice session topics focused on communication about money, poverty reduction with an update on the 2GEN program by Laura Tach, CHE, Policy Analysis and Management, an overview of the Poverty Spotlight work being done by CCE Chemung and Tioga counties from Andy Fagan, ED, CCE Chemung and Tioga, practical information on cutting the clutter in our homes and how to prepare for the transfer of items outside of a will to reduce family conflict, practical financial tips, the Poverty Calculator developed by Thomas Hirschl, Department of Development Sociology, the recent USDA Report on Rural Prosperity, the Money as You Grow curriculum for youth, and an introduction to the Your Money, Your Goals program developed by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Resources distributed at the inservice included a copy of the Your Money, Your Goals curriculum,
Money Talk-A financial Guide for Women, written by Barbara O’Neill, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, information on the Women and Money: Unique Issues Series from the University of Florida Extension and W$SE Up- Financial Education for Generation X and Y Women from the Department of Family Development and Resource Management from Texas A and M with information on how to access the programs, and the book the Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning. A short PWT meeting to debrief from the inservice was held following the inservice and a follow-up survey was sent to all participants via Survey Monkey. Evaluations were positive overall, just one attendee was unhappy with the location and parking.

The Balance Sheet

FERM PWT members continue to produce “The Balance Sheet” quarterly financial newsletter that can be posted on CCE websites or offered in hard copy format for use with consumers, association volunteers and county officials. The newsletter is sent electronically to educators to be customized with local information and distributed or posted on websites. Theresa Mayhew, CCE Columbia & Greene Counties, serves as newsletter editor (and article author) with FERM PWT members Jackie Spencer, CCE Tioga County; Nancy Reigelsperger, CCE Steuben County; Maria Delucia-Evans, CCE Albany County, Linda Law Saunders, CCE Washington County; Kenneth McLaurin Jr., CCE Tompkins County; and Barbara Henza, CCE Cortland County, contributing articles throughout the year.

Review of Curriculum and Resources

The FERM PWT reviewed a new curriculum from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), “Your Money, Your Goals” and took part in a training on the program via ZOOM. The curriculum and supporting materials are available free from the CFPB and were included in the inservice materials distributed to attendees in June 2018, along with information on how to order participant workbooks from the CFPB.

Let’s Talk Credit Webinar- September 6th

The September 6th Let’s Talk Credit Webinar focused on recent changes to consumer credit files that will have an impact on credit scores and an update on recent settlements and legislation regarding credit histories and freezes. Nancy Reigelsperger, PWT member from CCE Steuben and Barbara Henza, PWT member from CCE Cortland co-presented the webinar.

Multi-State Activities:

America Saves NY Saves

Nancy Reigelsperger, CCE Steuben County received a Mini grant from America Saves to support a week long campaign which included workshops, zoom meetings and a Piggy Bank Parade, where businesses decorated a piggy bank promoting their business and the need for saving. America Saves Week is sponsored by the Consumer Federation of America and provides materials that can be used by CCE Educators to host county America Saves Week.
National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE) - Barb Henza, CCE Cortland County, serves as the Cooperative Extension Representative to this national program. In this capacity, she serves as the contact person for anyone who is interested in implementing the National Endowment for Financial Education's High School Financial Planning Program as part of their classes or in their programs. As part of the statewide implementation of this program, CCE Cortland works closely with the New York State Credit Union Association to promote and present teacher trainings. In December 2017 funding was requested from NEFE to support the funded and during the summer of 2018 the Credit Union Association worked with CCE Cortland County to present two trainings for teachers, extension educators and credit union staff. Trainings were hosted by credit unions in Syracuse and Albany and took place in July and August. The decision was made by CCE Cortland not to schedule teacher trainings for 2019 as the funding available from NEFE for teacher trainings cannot be used for staff time to prepare and teach the classes.