

The attached document was submitted to the **Washoe
County Board of Commissioners** during the meeting

held on September 13, 2016

by Commissioner Herman

for Agenda Item No. 26

and included here pursuant to NRS 241.020(7) as
amended by AB65 of the 2013 Legislative Session.



University of Nevada Cooperative Extension – Washoe County Summary Report



Since 1916, Cooperative Extension, a partnership of the University of Nevada, Reno; Washoe County; and the USDA, has played a major role in engaged teaching, research and service for the benefit of Washoe County residents. Extension's purpose is set forth in NRS 549.010: "conduct educational, research, outreach and service programs pertaining to agriculture, community development, health and nutrition, horticulture, personal and family development, and natural resources in the rural and urban communities of Nevada."



Washoe County 4-H Youth Development Programs are age appropriate and focus on positive youth development principles that help shape future leaders and innovators through research-driven hands-on learning environments with a focus on academic and career readiness, and specific emphasis in STEM-based learning environments. 4-H programming includes the flagship **4-H Club Program** as well as the **4-H AfterSchool**, **4-H Military** and **4-H Mentoring** programs. The total numbers of youth involved in 2015 was 18,765 (nonduplicated youth participants) reflecting the total Youth Development programming efforts of UNCE faculty and staff in Washoe County.

Early Literacy Programming include English, Spanish and Native American educational programming efforts. Statistics show 51 percent of third-grade and 47 percent of fourth-grade students in Nevada are below basic reading level. The foundation for literacy begins in the years before school, and parents can play a big role in helping children develop those skills. In 2015, over 400 families were involved with Extension's **Family Storyteller** programming, 21 families were involved in the **Little Books and Little Cooks** program, and 320 families were involved in the **Striving Readers Program**.



Master Gardeners (MG) is an educational and volunteer-recruitment program. Extension trains avid community gardeners in science-based horticulture and environmentally sound gardening practices. These trained volunteers "give back" to the community by passing on their knowledge and training to the public. Thirty new MG students were trained in 2015. Master Gardeners participated in the **Advanced Greenhouse** program (growing 5,200 plants and donating over 400 to local schools and community groups), conducted soil tests (115 completed) and conducted in-house plant diagnosis walk-in clinics (632 clients served). The **MG Gardening in Nevada** series at Bartley Ranch reached 953 residents.

Horticulture Programs that foster proactive economic development include **Green Industry Training** (318 participants), **Trees and Drought Workshops** (49 participants), **Hispanic Landscape Training** (102 participants) **Bioplastic Container Cropping** (research) and **Introduction of Native Plants** (research). The **Grow Your Own Nevada** series, originating from Reno, is focused on health and nutrition from consumer-grown food and reached 858 students in 2015.

Living With Fire **Living With Fire** is an interagency effort coordinated by Extension that teaches Nevadans how to reduce the wildfire threat to their homes and families. The program accomplishes its education mission by developing publications and audio-visual products, conducting media interviews, holding workshops and conferences, supporting an organization for at-risk communities, and leading a wildfire awareness month during which 13,167 educational materials were distributed. In 2015, the Living With Fire program reached 2,029 residents in Washoe County. A new program was initiated this year, the **Washoe County Wildland-Urban Interface Communities** project, which brings together representatives of high-fire hazard Washoe County communities and local, state and federal firefighting agencies to discuss accomplishments and needs in reducing the Washoe wildfire threat.

The Nevada Radon Education Program educates Nevadans on radon health risks and provides test kits to Washoe residents to assess the radon threat in their homes. The total number of 2015 direct contacts through educational programs and test kit distribution was 5,136 people. Extension gave out 3,797 free short-term radon test kits, resulting in at least 2,716 newly tested homes, an increase of 996 homes over the previous year.

- BCC 9-13-16 #26
Commissioner Herman

Extension Nutrition Education Programs target youth and their families with a focus on healthy living through nutrition education via grants from the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. In 2015, 7,181 direct youth contacts were made through the **Grow Yourself Healthy, Small Steps 4 Big Changes** and **Smart Choices** programs. These programs are closely allied with 4-H efforts.

Extension Natural Resource and Environmental Programs focus on flood awareness in Northern Nevada and water quality in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Through website development, public meetings and outreach media, Extension faculty have been key members of interagency **Flood Awareness Program** to inform the public of flood potential and mitigation. Through the **Lake Tahoe Contractors Workshops** (125 participants) and the **North Lake Tahoe Demonstration Garden**, Extension faculty teach techniques to lower the discharge of sediments and nutrients into Lake Tahoe.

Washoe County Extension Employees - Percentage Funded by Washoe County

4H Youth Development	
Faculty (1)	100%
Professional (6)	100%

Early Literacy	
Faculty (1)	16%
Professional (3)	33%

Fiscal	
Faculty (1)	50%
Professional (1)	50%
Support Staff (1)	70%

Community Development	
Faculty (1)	53%

Living with Fire	
Faculty (4)	19%

Human Resources	
Professional (1)	60%
Support Staff (2)	98%

Environmental Science	
Faculty (2)	63%

Nutrition	
Faculty (1)	100%
Professional (3)	0%

Information Technology	
Faculty (1)	100%
Professional (1)	52%

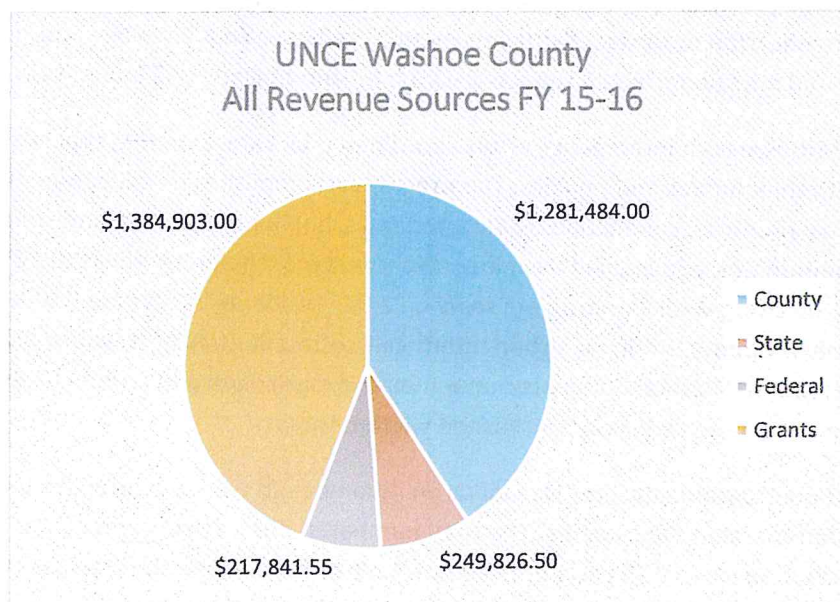
Horticulture/Master Gardeners	
Faculty (2)	19%
Professional (2)	85%

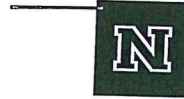
Radon	
Faculty (2)	0%

Director & Facilities	
Faculty (1)	38%
Professional (1)	90%

Support Staff - All Programs	
Admin Assistants (3)	100%

* Parenthesis indicate the number of employees by employee type. Percentage shows portion of salaries paid by Washoe County.





University of Nevada
Cooperative Extension

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