

United Growth Project Replication Manual



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Dedication Page

This manual is dedicated to all United Growth members and volunteers past, present, and future. Without their participation and thoughtful input, the United Growth model would never have been realized. Special recognition goes to the brave souls who were the first to chair the two major committees:

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Sharon Steffens, Rural Committee Chair

Danielle Bult, Urban Committee Co-Chair

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Welcome to MSU Extension!

Welcome! We are happy to have you as a member of our team. This manual was designed to help you, as a Land Policy Educator replicating the United Growth model in your coverage area, do your job.

Required Skills

Extension Educators are ideal for this type of work because they embody the following abilities. Extension calls abilities ‘Core Competencies’:

- Create partnerships
- Collect and interpret data
- Facilitate group decision-making
- Manage and transform conflict
- Manage scientific and technical information

Your work as a Land Policy Educator will require you to develop skills so that you are able to play all of these roles in your community:

- Convener
- Collaborator
- Networker
- Program Designer
- Diplomat
- Forecaster
- Mediator
- Facilitator
- Trainer
- Information Provider
- Researcher
- Organizer
- Technical Expert
- Other Educational Roles

MSU Extension Training Programs

Although Land Policy Educators will receive training and mentoring from United Growth staff, training programs to develop or advance these skills are plentiful within Extension. Please note that MSU Extension requires all employees to participate in a two day Diversity Training, Portal Training (for the new MSUE web site) as well as New Staff Orientation on campus. Talk with your County Extension Director (CED) to schedule these trainings. Your CED may have identified other useful trainings/orientation activities for you.

Specific MSU Extension training programs applicable to Land Policy Educators are:

- Land Use Area of Expertise training sessions and meetings (Required for LPEs)
- Citizen Planner Program trainings
- Facilitator Excellence Workshop
- The Logic Model and EIS evaluation training
- Strategic Futuring – Advanced Facilitation
- Communicating Your Way through Conflict
- Policy Making in Lansing