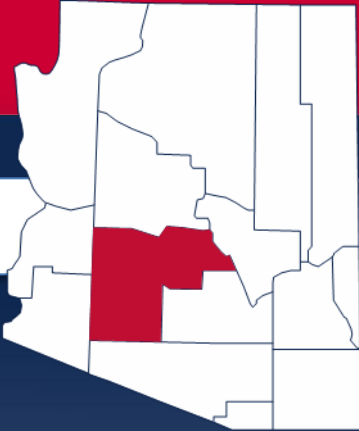




THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Cooperative Extension

Maricopa County



Maricopa County Report 2018



THE UNIVERSITY
OF ARIZONA

From the Director

Maricopa County Cooperative Extension's (MCCE) programs reach out into the communities throughout the county to deliver effective programs to improve people's lives, the community, and the economy. The 2018 year started like most years, with the office operating at full tilt with an array of educational opportunities and outreach events. The Master Gardeners (MG) held their two Citrus Clinics and started a new class of over 60 MG volunteers. The office participated in the Connect2STEM event with our peers at the UA Biomedical Campus in downtown Phoenix. We had our 4-H Achievement Night at the Phoenix Zoo with a red-carpet theme. It was a star-studded affair with all our 4-H members coming out to celebrate the success of our 4-H youth and volunteers. Our Smartscape program, a training program for landscape professionals, continues to grow and in 2018, we added a new Smartscape 101 Spanish class. The class was well attended, and we are now looking into offering other classes in Spanish as well. We had our Second Annual Spring Fiesta with over 300 people attending the event. The Spring Fiesta is a way for us to meet our neighbors and promote the great programs we have at MCCE. Project CENTRL, Arizona's Center for Rural Leadership, graduated its 26th class. This outstanding program continues to help mold our future leaders and has an impressive list of graduates. Our Field Crops and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs continue to grow, addressing the concerns of Maricopa County agricultural producers. Our efforts have resulted in less pesticides being applied and increase crop production through efficient and effective agronomic practices. The SNAP-Ed (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Education) and EFNEP (Expanded Food and Nutrition Extension program) continue to educate the public on healthy eating and the rewards of physical activity. These programs teach both adults and youth about developing healthy habits. Our Family Resource Center was able to secure continued funding in 2018 and is hard at work at the Martin Luther King Jr. elementary school helping families with children 0-5 years old get their kids ready for school. Our Turfgrass Science programs continue to work with the turfgrass managers from schools, sports facilities, and golf courses across the county, bringing them the latest science in turf care and management. AZ Project WET has continued programming within the county teaching about the importance of water in the Sonoran Desert. In addition to all our great faculty and staff, we are also fortunate to have a plethora of volunteers that expand our program efforts and make Maricopa County Cooperative Extension a premiere educational center. If you want to learn more about the exciting programs we offer, check us out on Facebook, or visit our website, or perhaps, take an old fashion approach and come down to the office for a visit. We're working hard on renovating our landscape, and we would be happy to talk with you about the exciting opportunities we have at Maricopa County Cooperative Extension. In conclusion, I would like to thank the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors for their continued support of our programs and thanks to the hundreds of companies that support our programs through in-kind donations and gifts.



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AT A GLANCE



Over 1900 volunteers gave more than 17,500 hours of their time, equaling more than \$430,000 in donated time.



Over 14,900 adults and 22,000 youth participated in Extension activities.

Over 21,000 people came through our doors to attend educational classes, meetings, and get answers.



<https://www.facebook.com/MaricopaCountyCooperativeExtension>

<http://extension.arizona.edu/maricopa>

Project CENTRL and Agricultural Literacy

Project CENTRL (Arizona's Center for Rural Leadership) is a competitively selected, tuition-free, 12-month leadership development program for 16 individuals connected to Rural Arizona. It meets participants where they are in their leadership journey by: 1) Building personal leadership skills. 2) Educating on the issues facing rural Arizona. 3) Connecting leaders to each other and experts.



Our Agricultural Literacy programs assist educators in the effective use of incorporating information about agriculture into the subjects they already teach, using lessons that are aligned to academic standards. The Summer Agricultural Institute (SAI) is a five-day educational workshop designed to teach K-12 teachers about food and fiber production and help them incorporate that knowledge in the classroom curriculum. SAI and workshops combine hands-on learning about agriculture with practical curriculum development. The Ag. Literacy program also provides food safety guidelines for schools that want to use school-grown produce in the cafeteria.

These programs help:

- *Educators incorporate research-based and scientifically accurate information about agriculture into their curriculum using lessons aligned to Arizona's Academic Standards.*
- *Leaders learn about water, production agriculture, natural resources, immigration, education, healthcare and corrections to make a difference in their communities.*



2018- By the Numbers

- **Of the 650 alumni of CENTRL's 27 classes. 190 live in Maricopa County.**
- **Six (6) alumni serve in Arizona's 54th Legislature, 1st Session. Including 2 representing Maricopa Co.**
- **155 educators learned how to implement agricultural concepts into their curriculum to help their 8,412 students meet STEM core requirements in the classroom.**

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Early Childhood Development

Ready, Set, Grow! Our Early Childhood Development program focuses on young children, parents and teacher/caregivers. Educational programs teach, train, model and promote positive interactions and experiences that help children reach their fullest potential and become ready for school and life. This award-winning family support program features parenting education, child development classes, community resource, and referral, educational workshops, unique learning experiences for young children, group support and community engagement. The UA-Roosevelt Early Childhood Family Resource Center is located at Martin Luther King Jr. School in South Phoenix. Families with children from birth to age 5 are invited to come to the center Mondays and Thursdays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. All programs and activities are free of charge and supported by First Things First.



Programs such as this:

- *Strengthen families, increase children's literacy levels, help children achieve developmental milestones, increase positive parent and child interactions, increase school readiness and improve community connectedness.*

2018- By the Numbers

- **Total attendance: 1,155 adults and 1,436 children**
- **1,104 families requested resources and referrals to community agencies**
- **This program has earned over \$3.4 million in grant supported funding in the last eight years.**
- **Over 3,000 children and adults participated and learned in educational activities through our Early Childhood Development program.**

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4-H Youth Development

Maricopa County 4-H is breaking the barriers between traditional 4-H and new ways of delivering 4-H to new audiences in the Phoenix metropolitan area! 4-H has always been the program that provides youth life skills, builds mastery, develops independence, enhances a sense of belonging, and encourages generosity - that remains the same. These skills are at the core of our program in every way we deliver it. 4-H is well known for its community-based clubs where youth and adult volunteers work together hand-in-hand to learn, engage in activities, and connect with their communities. These historical components also remain the same. The change Maricopa County 4-H is incorporating is reaching more youth in more ways through 4-H! As a team, we are working to enhance the 4-H Community Club experience, which is resulting in growth in our community club membership. We are challenging youth from inner city Phoenix schools to connect science with career opportunities as they master the basics of robotics in eight sessions through the 4-H SPecial Interest (SPIN) Robotics Club. Through another of our new 4-H delivery modes, the Teen Outreach Program, we are challenging youth to find a sense of independence as they learn about making healthy choices physically, mentally, and emotionally. Finally, we continue to develop youth's desire to show generosity by involving them in giving back to others. There's excitement and energy brewing in the Maricopa County 4-H Program!



Youth in 4-H programs:

- *Are two times more likely to make healthier choices.*
- *Are four times more likely to contribute to their communities as other youth.*
- *Are less likely to engage in risky behaviors (e.g., tobacco/alcohol use or bullying) or experience depression than youth in other out-of-school time programs.*

2018 - By the Numbers

- **Four 4-H Robotics, Electronics, & Science hands-on SPIN Clubs in three Phoenix Schools and Luke Air Force Base totalling 30 new 4-H members.**
- **Our 4-H Teen Outreach Program has recently over doubled in numbers as they add additional foster care sites and are now in inner-city Phoenix Schools.**
- **Four new 4-H Community Clubs, two of which started in inner-city Phoenix.**
- **Our total 4-H enrollment has increased by 25% in the past 3 years.**

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Horticulture

The Master Gardener (MG) program within the Horticulture program of the Maricopa County Cooperative Extension is home to more than 460 Certified Master Gardener volunteers. Master Gardeners are dedicated ambassadors of gardening education for the residents of Maricopa County. The Master Gardener program teaches efficient and productive garden practices specific to the Sonoran Desert with emphasis on the latest research-based science provided by the University of Arizona. Public education focuses include proper watering; plant problem diagnostics; proper plant selection, care, and placement; and the identification, and control of landscape weeds and pests. Master Gardeners are proudly a part of many school and community gardens throughout Maricopa County and promote the education of year-round vegetable gardening and successful food production.

The Master Gardener program is an active and vibrant program, and volunteers spent more than 7,000 continuing education hours serving the public. Training to become a MG includes a 17-week (51 hours) course, volunteer service hours, and a love of teaching others proper gardening practices. To maintain certification, Master Gardeners annually volunteer a minimum of 25 volunteer hours and 12 continuing education hours. Volunteer activities support a variety of educational events and classes for Maricopa homeowners. The green industry in Maricopa County is also supported by the Commercial Horticulture Program that provides research-based outreach to nurseries, landscape companies, and small acreage vegetable producers.



Our Horticulture and Master Gardener programs:

- *Educate the residents of Maricopa County to more efficiently and effectively garden in the Sonoran Desert.*
- *Increase the access for Maricopa County residents to fresh fruits and vegetables.*
- *Create a network of trained volunteers to answer plant and landscape questions for the residents of Maricopa County.*
- *Promote and create a community of Demonstration, Community and School gardens.*

2018 - By the Numbers

- **Over 2,000 plant and landscape questions/calls were answered by the Master Gardener Help Desk.**
- **12,444 people had direct contact with our Horticulture and Master Gardener programs.**
- **Over 460 active volunteers registered over 24,000 hours, estimated to be worth \$588,000.**

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Turfgrass Science

The University of Arizona surveyed and reported that the golf industry contributed \$3.9 billion to the state's economy. Turfgrass Extension programming in Maricopa County provides research and outreach education for turf professionals of turf facilities that host the Arizona Cardinals, Fiesta Bowl, Arizona Diamondbacks, 15 major league baseball teams, and Waste Management Golf Tournament among others. The Turfgrass Extension program contributes to schools and municipalities by evaluating ways to optimize water and manpower inputs. The economic impact study also found that golf courses use less than 2% of the groundwater. Current projects investigate and demonstrate the potential integration of native grasses and groundcovers when turfgrasses are removed and the use of colorants on dormant Bermuda grass to "green-up" turf during the winter months. We collaborate with campus faculty and experts across the country to assure the latest research findings for weed, insect and disease control, and irrigation management are being delivered and adopted to address the needs and solve turf problems in Maricopa County. Last summer at Sloan Park in Mesa, nearly 400 turf professionals attended an educational demonstration sports turf field day where speakers and vendors shared new technologies and products.



Our Turfgrass Science Extension program:

- *Improves turfgrass management strategies and practices for schools, cities, and professional turf facilities by conducting research and introducing innovative technologies to optimize water use and manage pests and weeds.*
- *Provides educational opportunities for turf managers to learn how to decrease or improve inputs and improve turf quality with techniques that conserve water resources, implement integrated pest management, and reduce their environmental footprint.*

2018 - By the Numbers

- **Turf Research and Extension with the Agricultural Resource and Economics Department surveyed and determined that the golf industry contributed \$3.9 billion to the Arizona economy.**
- **Turf research is continuing to find alternative grasses that use less water as well as investigating pest management and weed control solutions for turf.**

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Field Crops and Integrated Pest Management

Our Field Crops and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program continues to serve the diverse agricultural system we have in Maricopa County. With an emphasis on reducing the environmental footprint for our agricultural production, our Field Crops IPM program helps bring new selective chemistries and biological control approaches that optimizes crops yields and protect the environment, animals, and humans. We work to increase irrigation efficiency to reduce agriculture water use, utilize remote sensing, scanning and drone technologies to help keep Maricopa County agriculture competitive with the rest of the country and on the world market. One of the major issues the program is addressing is the management of alfalfa and forage crops. Alfalfa hay dominates the cropping system in Arizona with ~300,000 acres of alfalfa and other forage crops farmed each year. With some of the highest yield per acre nationwide and an annual crop valued at ~\$500 million, forage crops contribute significantly to the dairy and other livestock enterprises. The Maricopa County Cooperative Extension Field Crops/IPM Program is leading national grants to study better practices to manage aphids and weevils in alfalfa, pests that can significantly decrease crop yield when not controlled properly. The Program established new information to help making informed decision for the management of insect pests in alfalfa, corn sorghum, and small grains. The educational, research, and Extension activities of the program helped Maricopa County growers making informed and science-based decisions of their crops and pest management to maximize profit and lead sustainable practices of their operations.



Our Field Crops/IPM program aims at:

- *Reducing pesticide residues in the environment.*
- *Improving yield, quality, and economic returns for growers and tribal farms in the region.*
- *Developing more sustainable and environment-friendly options for pest management and agricultural production for the region, resulting in healthier plants, fewer pest outbreaks, and fewer pest resurgences.*

2018 - By the Numbers

- **Over 1000 growers and agricultural professionals attended Field Crop Extension events which offered timely, updated, and science-based information, and provided more than 40 Continuing Education Units.**
- **Our agricultural faculty were involved in over \$2.6 million of grant funds to address the issues of field crops that generate over \$1.5 billion for the Arizona economy.**

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Nutrition and Physical Activity

Living healthy is not always easy – it takes a lifetime of learning and practicing what to eat, how to exercise, and knowing the difference between reliable sources of nutrition and physical activity information from fictitious blurbs. Our two nutrition programs, the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (**EFNEP**), and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (**SNAP-Ed**) program, reach into local communities and make contacts with youth, adults, and seniors. **EFNEP** is active in five counties within the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension system, and four staff teach nutrition and physical activity to adults in limited-income areas in Maricopa County. As part of the University of Arizona supported by AZ Health Zone, which is an active partnership of over 10 Cooperative Extension offices across the state, Maricopa County **SNAP-Ed** faculty (1) and staff (22) coordinate efforts throughout Maricopa County, engaging schools and communities in learning healthy habits through a *Policy, Systems, and Environmental* change approach. Staff are involved in: (1) direct education teaching nutrition and physical activity; (2) training school teachers to incorporate nutrition and physical activity into their daily classroom instruction; (3) providing consultations to develop and sustain gardens in the community, homes, and at schools; (4) working with schools and school districts to have active wellness policies in place; and (5) working in the realm of Food Access to help with increasing the access and amount of local produce available to the community. Our newest addition in healthy lifestyle programming is the Diabetes Prevention Program (**DPP**) which started in the Fall 2018. This is a year-long, CDC program that teaches those diagnosed with pre-diabetes on how to focus on health, nutrition, and physical activity to reduce their risk of diabetes.



Studies show that participants involved in programs like **EFNEP**, **SNAP-Ed** and the **DPP**:

- *Feel more motivated to increase physical activity (58% participants).*
- *Intend to fill at least half their plate with fruits and vegetables each day (99% participants).*
- *Decrease the incidence of type 2 diabetes by 58% by being in a lifestyle intervention program.*

2018 - By the Numbers

- Nearly 5,000 adults and over 20,000 youth participated in SNAP-Ed and EFNEP programs with over 350 partners and collaborators across the county.
- 1,194 volunteers donated over 13,000 hours of their time, valued at an estimated \$321,000.
- \$2.2 million in grants were obtained for SNAP-Ed and EFNEP programs for Maricopa County.

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Urban Water Resources

Water is a precious resource in the arid southwest with 19 years of drought causing major issues in Arizona, and most certainly within Maricopa County. Our Urban Water Resources programs, in particular, Arizona Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) and the Smartscape Program, lead the water conservation efforts at Maricopa County Cooperative Extension. Through its workshops and multi-day academies for teachers, Arizona Project WET (APW) enabled 373 educators to be better facilitators of learning and become more aware of Arizona's water resources. They then share that knowledge in the classroom with their over 21,972 students. This year 24 water festivals were held serving 15,452 students, 587 teachers, and 967 parents. The 840 students in the Water Scene Investigation (WSI) program have saved the valley an estimated 1,280,000 gallons of water annually by just changing aerators on faucets at school and in their homes. APW also helped over 1,100 adults learn more about local water issues at public events this past year.



A joint grant from AMWUA (Arizona Municipal Water Users Association) and the Arizona Department of Water Resources funds the Smartscape Program in Maricopa County. The program engages professionals from all facets of the landscape industry by educating them on the fundamentals of designing, installing, and maintaining beautiful, water-efficient landscapes that help promote water conservation in our desert environment. The basic Smartscape course is offered twice per year in English and once in Spanish, and an Advanced Irrigation course is offered once per year.

These programs help:

- *Save millions of gallons through the promotion and demonstration of water conservation techniques.*
- *Train landscape professionals and managers proper techniques to conserve water while maintaining attractive and sensible landscapes for the Sonoran Desert.*

2018 - By the Numbers

- **Over 20,000 school aged youth in Maricopa County participated in Arizona Project WET programs in 2018, learning about water in the environment and what we can do to protect and use our water resources more wisely.**
- **216 landscape professionals and managers from across Maricopa County attended Smartscape and Advanced Smartscape: *Irrigation* training courses, learning techniques of wise water use in appropriate landscaping for our low desert environment.**

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Maricopa County Cooperative Extension

Our Mission: To engage with people through applied research and education to improve lives, families, communities, the environment, and economies in Arizona and beyond.

Our Vision: To be a vital national leader in creating and applying knowledge to help people build thriving, sustainable lives, communities, and economies.

As the University of Arizona in Maricopa County:

- We empower people to expand their capabilities to improve their lives.
- We are a well-known, effective, and accessible educational resource for all communities.
- We are a trusted partner in communities for leadership education.
- We develop strong, capable leaders in all communities.
- We are recognized experts for developing and disseminating research-based information.

Our 2019 Advisory Board

Cheryl Goar, Executive Director, Arizona Nursery Association (District 1)

Jon Wootten – Chairman, Roots N Boots Queen Creek Pro Rodeo Committee; President, Friends of Horseshoe Park; (District 1)

Carol Ward-Morris – Assistant Director, AZ Municipal Water Users Association (District 2)

John Augustine - Owner/Operator Desert Tree Nursery (District 3)

Tracy Johnson - Mill Manager, Lakin Cattle Company (District 4)

Tamara Ridge - Office Manager, Paul Rovey Dairy (District 4)

Kevin Danzeisen - General Manager, Danzeisen Dairy (District 5)

Maricopa County Board of Supervisors – 2019

Jack Sellers - District 1

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Bill Gates, Chairman - District 3

Clint Hickman – District 4

Steve Gallardo - District 5



Scenes of 2018



Faculty and Staff - Maricopa County Cooperative Extension

Below is a listing of the faculty and staff at the Maricopa County Cooperative Extension. These women and men are the ones who deliver the programs to the residents of Maricopa County. Their hard work and dedication have made positive differences in people's lives, communities, the environment, and the economy in Maricopa County.

KEY: **ANR** – Agriculture and Natural Resources; **CENTRL** – Center for Rural Leadership; **DPP** – Diabetes Prevention Program; **EFNEP** – Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program; **FCHS** – Family and Consumer Health Sciences; **FRC** – Family Resource Center; **MG** – Master Gardener; **IPM** – Integrated Pest Management; **SNAP-Ed** – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education; **TOP** – Teen Outreach Program; **WET** – Water Education for Teachers; **YD** – Youth Development.

Faculty and Staff 2019

Edward C. Martin, County Director, Professor/Extension Specialist
Traci Armstrong Florian, Agent: FCHS, DPP, EFNEP, & SNAP-Ed
Michael Chamberland, Assistant Agent, ANR/Horticulture
Kim Christman, Area Agent, 4-H Youth Development
Scott Koenig, Executive Director, Project CENTRL
Patty Merk, Area Agent: FCHS/Family & Youth
Ayman Mostafa, Area Agent, ANR/Field Crops, IPM
Rebecca Senior, Assistant in Extension, Living Classroom
Kai Umeda, Area Agent: ANR/Turfgrass



Marina Acosta Ortiz, Program Coordinator, SNAP-Ed/Gardening
Diana Aguilera, Instructional Specialist, Sr. SNAP-Ed
Brittany Alger, TPP Program Coordinator, 4-H YD
Jennifer Amundsen, Program Coordinator, 4-H YD
Barbara Ashford, Administrative Assistant, SNAP-Ed
Paula Barr Skillicorn, Program Coordinator FCHS / SNAP-Ed
Sarah Beatty, Program Coordinator FCHS / SNAP-Ed
Worku Burayu, Research Specialist, Field Crops/Turfgrass
Yahira Campana, Program Coordinator, FRC
Mirsha Carrazco Rios, Instructional Specialist, EFNEP
Anne Cimorelli-Stears, Health Educator, Sr., FCHS/SNAP-Ed
Mary Conner, Program Coordinator, Sr.
Yvonne Cooper, Program Coordinator, Sr. MG/ Horticulture
Sharon Dewey, Instructional Specialist, MG/Horticulture
Carol Diemer, Program Coordinator FCHS / SNAP-Ed
Veronica Duron, Administrative Secretary, 4-H YD
Angel Escalante, General Maintenance Mechanic
Tamara Floyd, Program Coordinator, Sr., FRC
Jose Gamiz, Instructional Specialist, EFNEP/SNAP-Ed
Gloria Gomez Torres, Program Aide, FRC
Eunice Gonzales, Business Manager, Sr.



Faculty and Staff 2019

Hannah Hanson, Program Coordinator, 4-HYD
Kyle Harrington, Program Coordinator, ANR/Field Crops, IPM
Julie Hasty, Instructional Specialist Senior, AZ Project WET
Khandle Hedrick, Instructional Specialist, EFNEP
Brittany Hobe, Associate, Accountant, SNAP-Ed
Sandra Hurlbut, Program Coordinator, AZ Project WET
Amber Jones, Administrative Secretary, Urban Horticulture
Pamela Justice, Program Coordinator, Sr. ANR/AZ Project WET
Nicole Kallman, Instructional Specialist / WRRC/ AZ Project WET
Niki Key, Administrative Secretary, FCHS
Jackie Luna, Instructional Specialist, Sr. SNAP-Ed
Kirti Mathura, Program Coordinator, Sr., Smartscape
Linda Miranda, Instructional Specialist, SNAP-Ed
Brandon Moak, Program Coordinator, Sr., ANR/Ag Literacy
Cathy Munger, Systems Administrator, Principal
Gina Nieves, Program Director, FRC
Marisa Noble, Program Aide, ANR Field Crops
Delmi Ortega, Program Coordinator, Sr., FCHS/EFNEP
Haydee Pardee, TPP Program Coordinator, 4-HYD
Vanessa Parra, Accounting Associate
Rachelle Phillips, Instructional Specialist, Sr. FCHS/SNAP-Ed
Beth Reidhead, Program Coordinator, MG/Urban Horticulture
David Robertson, TOP Program Coordinator, 4-HYD
Norma Rodriguez, Instructional Specialist, Sr., FCHS /SNAP-Ed
Janel Rogers, Instructional Specialist, DPP/EFNEP
Liliana Ruiz Fischer, Program Coordinator, SNAP-Ed
Karen Salem, Program Aide, SNAP-Ed Garden/Food Access
Elizabeth Schnoll, Health Educator, Sr., FCHS/SNAP-Ed
Sheri Semones, Administrative Secretary/Receptionist
Dotty Spears, Program Coordinator, Sr., FCHS/SNAP-Ed
Mary Ann Stoll, Program Coordinator, Sr., ANR/AZ Project WET
Kathleen Tapia, Program Coordinator, FRC
Betty Thompson, Health Educator, Sr., FCHS/SNAP-Ed
Jane Toomey, Instructional Specialist, Community Garden Education
Tracey Wasson, Administrative Assistant, Project CENTRL
Caroline Werkhoven, Program Coordinator, 4-HYD
Tricey Wilks, Program Coordinator, SNAP-Ed Social Media/Marketing
Kenisha Williams, Program Aide, FRC



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Online Giving - All tax deductible charitable donations are processed through the University of Arizona Foundation. Donations can be made at <https://www.uafoundation.org/netcommunity/sslpage.aspx?pid=487>. Be sure to indicate which program and/or county office you want the donations to go to. You can pick the county and then later on in the process have the opportunity to specify what program in the comments section.

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