2014 Western Regional EFNEP Coordinators Conference

In September 2014, Arizona hosted the Western Region EFNEP Coordinators Conference. Thirty people attended from many areas of the United States; Alaska, American Samoa, California, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Micronesia, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, Washington D.C. and Arizona. University of Arizona administration, nutritional sciences, and faculty from five of the fifteen counties presented.

- Maricopa County Extension Director, Ed Martin, PhD
- Director Jeff Silvertooth PhD
- Scottie Misner, PhD, RD, Associate Nutrition Specialist, State EFNEP/SNAP-Ed Coordinator
- Associate Director Cooperative Extension, Linda Houtkooper, Ph.D, RD, EACSM
- Health Educator, Sr., Elizabeth Schnoll, M.Ed, FCHS
- Area Associate Agent Monica Kilcullen Pastor
- Stephanie M. Blake - Program Coordinator, Institute of Food Safety and Nutrition USDA, National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)
- Traci Armstrong Florian, Assistant Agent | Family, Consumer, and Health Sciences, EFNEP, SNAP-Ed, MCA
- Evelyn Whitmer, Area Agent for The University of Arizona Sierra Vista, Arizona.
- Ruth Jackson, Associate in Extension for Special Projects, EFNEP, M.Ed.

Faculty and staff presentations covered many areas:

- Overview of Arizona Cooperative Extension
- Nutrition Update
- Physical Activity
- (Multi-State) NC2169 Project
- Ag to the Table
- Up Date from Institute of Food Safety and Nutrition USDA, National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)
- Social Marketing

On day two the group enjoyed a tour of the Maricopa Agriculture Center (MAC) where they learned about classes taught to children, the processing of cotton balls to fluffy cotton for commercial use, and participated in field irrigation:
On the ride back to Phoenix, the group discussed what they learned; they were very impressed with the operation at the farm. Committee meetings were held and the group returned to their hotel.
Day three begin at the Heard Museum, Native American Boarding Schools, Native American Art, etc. and Lego Land:

The experience was enjoyed by all.

Evaluation comments:

- Talofa Western Region EFNEP Colleagues, Hello! Here's hoping and praying that all is well with each and everyone. Our Western Region Conference was just so relaxing, informative, educational and a just all around a great opportunity to fellowship.... Thank you very much Arizona University for your hospitality! God bless each and everyone. Respectfully, Rebecca Flame.

- Connie Schneider, the California Director of Youth, Families, and Communities Statewide Programs, who attended the Conference, shared with everyone at our National FCS Program Leaders meetings in Lexington this week (September 15-19) at the NEAFCS Conference, her
praise for things she learned about at this EFNEP Regional Conference. This was great national visibility for our work in the West.

- Enjoyed every moment of this conference. Thank you very much for everything! Much appreciated.
- Very excellent conference.
- Thanks so much! Ed Martin’s presentation was excellent!
- It was a great/perfect experience for us. Despite the heat, you make AZ a beautiful place.
- Wonderful learning & great communication conference
- Nice to have cultured variety. MAC – wonderful extension – what a showcase for extension in action.
- Heard Museum – link to cultural roots of AZ so important to extension programing.
- Really great to know better what other states are doing with their agriculture programs.
- Will provide activities in promoting Nutrition & Food Safety for the children.
- Loved the history...cotton information great. Great ideas for classroom education. Open your mind.
- Great update and glad to follow up on day two with brainstorming. Compare my state to Western Division and National. Plan to integrate in my webinar next week.
- Excellent conference.
- Please put/send things (presentation) on email.
- Your hosts are impeccable.
- Fantastic, really appreciate the work and having staff to share ideas. As usual more time – never enough time.