Looking back on 2016, it is gratifying to see all the good work we have accomplished at Maricopa County Cooperative Extension (MCCE). The year started with our participation in the Arizona SciTech Festival Connect2STEM event in January 2016 at the University of Arizona College of Medicine, Phoenix. Among the many displays we had our Blender Bike that served over 1,700 Dixie cup sized nutritious smoothies that day. We held our annual Desert Turf School and started a new Smartscape class for turf and landscape professionals. The Citrus Clinic was held in January and we started a new Master Gardener class, designed for the gardening and landscape enthusiast. Our nutrition and physical activity staff worked with schools in developing nutritional education and promoting healthy lifestyles. We also had education opportunities for teachers to learn about agriculture and water conservation. The Roosevelt Early Childhood Family Resource Center celebrated Dr. Seuss’s birthday with a day of reading and fun. Our agriculture agent, Ayman Mostafa, collaborated with UA faculty and the Arizona Department of Agriculture to identify and find a solution for a new pest in the region, the sugarcane aphid that damages our sorghum crops. Our 4-H members had a successful County Fair and then did well at the State Fair. We also held our first 4-H Science YOUUniversity for 5th graders from Madison Park Middle School in Phoenix which culminated with a visit to the UA College of Medicine, Phoenix, for their “Dr. for a Day program.” Kids learned how to intubate a patient, read vital signs, determine eye damage, and “gown and glove up” for surgery. Over 44,000 people walked through the doors of our offices to learn about soil, how to grow mushrooms, the latest in irrigation technology, early childhood development, or learn about childcare for kids with autism through our Brain Builders program. We also reached into the numerous communities throughout Maricopa County. Over the past 3 years, we have collaborated with more than 800 schools, community centers, private industry, and government agencies, helping to improve people’s lives. The year ended with the release of an economic impact study that showed the golf industry contributed $3.9 million to the state’s economy. This study was conducted in partnership with our Turfgrass Research and Extension team led by Kai Umada, the UA Department of Agricultural and Resources Economics, and the Cactus and Pine Golf Course Superintendent Association. Finally, I want to thank the more than 4,000 volunteers that supported the programs at MCCE and thank you to the staff and faculty for all you have done. We sincerely appreciate the continued support of our Maricopa County Board of Supervisors. I can’t wait to see what we’ll accomplish in 2017.

Edward C. Martin, PhD
County Extension Director
ecmartin@email.arizona.edu

Maricopa County Cooperative Extension
4341 E. Broadway Road
Phoenix, AZ 85040
602.827.8200
Youth are engaging in hands-on learning through 4-H After-School Clubs and 4-H Special Interest Clubs across the metro-Phoenix area increasing 4-H enrollment by over 7% in the past year.

Over 67,000 youth and adults received nutrition and health education with over 3.2 million face-to-face contacts recorded by our office staff and our more than 550 community partners.

The School Garden Food Safety training program is now online and 26 educators serving almost 3,000 students can have easy access to the forms required to receive certification from the AZ Department of Health Services.

$1.8 million in salary was provided to our 84 Maricopa County resident employees, 71% of them supported through grant and/or contract funds that were obtained by our faculty and staff.

Over 4,000 volunteers gave more than 60,000 hours of their time, equaling more than $1.4 million in donated time.

Over 35,800 adults and 133,000 youth participated in Extension activities.

Over 44,000 people came through our doors to attend educational classes, meetings, and get answers.

https://www.facebook.com/MaricopaCountyCooperativeExtension

http://extension.arizona.edu/maricopa
Agricultural Literacy, School Gardening, and Project CENTRL

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. Using online modules as well as face-to-face workshops, the program offers education for teachers to learn about the guidelines for developing, operating, and harvesting a school garden.

Project CENTRL (Arizona’s Center for Rural Leadership) trains 16 Arizona residents over the course of a year through nine seminars. These seminars teach them about their personal leadership strengths, educate them on issues in rural areas, and give them the opportunity to learn about the political issues at state and national levels. This year we will begin the 26th class for this program.

These programs help:

- Educators that participate in the online School Garden Food Safety training implement practices designed to reduce the risk of microorganisms contaminating produce grown in the school garden.

- Educators incorporate research-based and scientifically accurate information about agriculture into their curriculum using lessons aligned to Arizona’s College and Career Ready Standards.

- Provides a premier leadership program for Arizona residents.

2016 - By the Numbers

- School Garden Food Safety online and face-to-face workshops reached 102 teachers, who then taught about 5,000 students.

- 623 classroom educators who teach 25,000 students learned how to implement agricultural concepts into their curriculum to help meet their STEM core requirements in the classroom.

- Over 600 alumni of CENTRL indicated they have served in leadership roles in at least three community organizations

Contact: Monica Pastor
mpastor@email.arizona.edu
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. Our 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 Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. All programs and activities are offered at no charge. Our Brain Builders program for early childhood professionals is a 16-hour interactive training that integrates research-based information on early brain development and typical child development for children prenatal to age three. The training covers all domains of child development including physical, cognitive, social, emotional, and adaptive development. Upon completion, participants receive a 16-hour CEU certificate.

Programs such as these, have shown that:

- Parents and caregivers are more confident and competent about raising their children. Young children from birth to age 5 are meeting developmental milestones and are ready for school.

- Children that read at grade level by 3rd grade are more likely to graduate from high school.

- A high school diploma means a child is much more likely to be employed, be self-sufficient and contribute to society.

2016- By the Numbers

- This program has earned nearly $3 million in grant supported funding in the last seven years.

- Over 12,000 children and adults participated and learned in educational activities through our Early Childhood Development programs.

Contact: Patty Merk, Ph.D.

pmerk@cals.arizona.edu
Maricopa County 4-H is at the cutting edge of bringing 4-H to new audiences in new ways! 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 won’t change. These skills are at the core of our program in every way we deliver it. 4-H is also known for its community-based clubs where youth and adults work together hand-in-hand to learn, engage in activities, and connect with their communities. These historical components also won’t change either. The change we are incorporating is reaching more youth in more ways! The challenge that our program faces is to stay relevant with our current members while shaping the program to meet the needs of our potential participants who have different backgrounds from those we normally reach. Our growing 4-H Team excitedly accepts this challenge! As a team, we are working to enhance the 4-H Community Club experience, and this is resulting in growth in our community club membership. We are challenging youth from inner city Phoenix schools to master the basics of robotics in six sessions through the 4-H SPIN Club delivery mode. We are challenging youth to find a sense of independence as they learn about staying protected physically, mentally, and emotionally through the 4-H Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program. Youth are developing an identity and a sense of belonging as they connect science with career opportunities through participation in 4-H Science YOUUniversity. Finally, we continue to develop youth’s desire to show generosity by involving our participants in other delivery modes, and demonstrating that there are a multitude of ways to give back to others! There’s nothing but excitement and energy brewing in the Maricopa County 4-H Program!

Youth in 4-H programs:

- *Are at much lower risk of having personal, social, and behavioral problems than other youth.*
- *Are more than twice as 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.*

2016 - By the Numbers

- Two 4-H Robotics SPIN Clubs in two Phoenix Schools totally 16 new 4-H members.
- One 4-H Science YOUUniversity program occurred and two more are on the calendar, reaching 86 inner-city Phoenix youth, with 130 more projected to participate this year.
- Our 4-H Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program has recently expanded from foster care sites to a local inner-city Phoenix School.

Contact: Kim Christman
kchristman@email.arizona.edu
Horticulture and Agroecology

The Master Gardner, horticulture, and Agroecology programs at Maricopa County Cooperative Extension are geared towards helping people discover better ways of living in the Sonoran Desert. Whether it is through choosing the right plants, or locating them properly in your landscape, or deciding on an approach to control a weed or insect infestation, these programs offer the latest in research-based information. The Master Gardner program is one of our most active and vibrant volunteer programs. There are three parts to becoming and staying a Certified Master Gardener: 1) attending the training, which provides novice and experienced gardeners alike with the opportunity to improve their horticultural knowledge and skills; 2) sharing at least 25 hours of expertise and time with the public through organized volunteer activities; and 3) earning at least 12 hours of personal continuing education. Providing support to the green industry in Maricopa County, the Commercial Horticulture Program provides research-based outreach to nurseries, landscape companies, and small acreage vegetable producers. The Beginning and Small Farms Program connects existing and prospective producers with University and outside resources. Learning opportunities include IPM walks and hands-on training sessions in organic production techniques. Current research is investigating unconventional leafy greens for summer production.

Our Horticulture and Agroecology programs:

- *Create greater awareness and appreciation for the Sonoran Desert environment we live in.*
- *Increase the access for Maricopa County residents to fresh fruits and vegetables.*
- *Create a network of knowledgeable individuals to help answer questions and address horticultural issues for the residents in Maricopa County.*

**2016 - By the Numbers**

- **30,000** people had direct contact with our horticulture and agroecology programs.
- **Over 440** active volunteers registered over 22,000 hours, estimated to be worth $530,000.

Contact: Kelly Young
kyoung@cals.arizona.edu
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 managers of turf facilities that host the Arizona Cardinals, Fiesta Bowl, Cactus Bowl, Arizona Diamondbacks, and 15 major league baseball teams. 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 bermudagrass 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.

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.

2016 - 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.

Contact:  Kai Umeda
kumeda@cals.arizona.edu
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 that optimizes the use of chemical sprays on crops to 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 responded quickly and effectively to the outbreak of sugarcane aphid, a new pest for sorghum in Arizona in summer 2016. 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 stable natural controls and sustainable agricultural production for the region, resulting in healthier plants, fewer pest outbreaks, and fewer pest resurgences.**

2016 - By the Numbers

- Over 800 growers and agricultural professionals attended Field Crop Extension events which offered timely, updated, and science-based information, and provided more than 35 Continuing Education Units.
- Our agricultural faculty were involved in over $1 million of grant funds to address the issues of field crops that generate over $1.5 billion for the Arizona economy.

Contact: Ayman Mostafa
ayman@cals.arizona.edu
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 and fictitious blurbs. However, our Nutrition and Physical Activity programs make learning about staying healthy fun and enjoyable, regardless of whether you are 5 or 105!

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 teaches nutrition and physical activity to adults in limited-income areas. As part of the University of Arizona Nutrition Network (UANN), which is an active partnership of over 10 Cooperative Extension offices across the state, Maricopa County SNAP-Ed faculty and staff 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 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. This is done by working with farmers, farmers markets, and food stands to educate and convey the importance of accepting EBT/SNAP benefits as a form of payment (and getting set up to receive that type of payment), as well as encouraging SNAP recipients to frequent farmers markets to purchase their produce with their EBT/SNAP benefits.

Studies show that participants involved in programs like EFNEP and SNAP-Ed:

- *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).*

### 2016 - By the Numbers

- Over 10,000 adults and 56,000 youth participated in SNAP-Ed and EFNEP programs with a total of 3.2 million face-to-face contacts with partners and collaborators across the county.
- 2,476 volunteers donated over 24,000 hours of their time, valued at an estimated $572,000.
- $2.2 million in grants were obtained for SNAP-Ed and EFNEP programs for Maricopa County.

Contact: Traci Armstrong Florian
tarmstro@cals.arizona.edu
Urban Water Resources

Water continues to be one of the most important issues in Arizona, and most certainly within Maricopa County. As concerns continue about a shortage on the Colorado River, communities in Arizona are working hard to reduce their water consumption. 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) helped 212 educators become more aware of Arizona’s water resources. They then share that knowledge in the classroom with their over 10,600 students. The 1,535 students in the Water Scene Investigation (WSI) program have saved the east valley an estimated 4,000,000 gallons of water annually. APW also helped over 1,750 adults learn more about local water issues at public events this past year. A grant from AMWAU (Arizona Municipal Water Users Association) and the Arizona Department of Water Resources funds the Smartscape Program. The program engages professionals from 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 while an advanced course on irrigation is offered once per year.

These programs help:

- **Save millions of gallons through the promotion and demonstration of water conversation techniques.**

- **Train landscape professionals and managers proper management techniques to conserve water while maintaining attractive and sensible landscapes for the Sonoran Desert.**

### 2016 - By the Numbers

- Over 19,375 school aged youth in Maricopa County participated in Arizona Project WET programs in 2016, learning about water in the environment and what we can do to protect and use our water resources more wisely.

- 183 landscape professionals and managers from cities and towns in Maricopa County attended Smartscape Basic and Advance training classes.

Contacts:  
Kaitlin Poe-Orsburn  
Smartscape  
kpoecals.arizona.edu

Pamela Justice  
Arizona Project WET  
pjustice@cals.arizona.edu
**Maricopa County Cooperative Extension**

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

**Our Vision:** We envision strongly connected communities invested in the betterment of every individual.

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 2017 Advisory Board**

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**Maricopa County Board of Supervisors – 2017**

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Scenes of 2016
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; EFNEP – Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program; FCHS – Family and Consumer Health Sciences; FRC –Family Resource Center; IPM – Integrated Pest Management; SNAP-Ed – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education; TPP – Teen Pregnancy Prevention; WET – Water Education for Teachers; YD – Youth Development; CENTRL – Center for Rural Leadership.

Faculty and Staff 2017

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

Marina Acosta Ortiz, Program Coordinator, SNAP-Ed/Gardening
Gadelhak Ahmed, Research Specialist, ANR Field Crops
Jennifer Amundsen, Program Coordinator, 4-H YD/TPP
Barbara Ashford, Administrative Assistant
Paula Barr Skillicorn, Instructional Specialist, Sr., SNAP-Ed
Worku Burayu, Research Specialist, Field Crops/Turfgrass
Sally Cassady, Health Educator, Sr., SNAP-Ed
Angie Castro, Program Coordinator, Sr., FRC
Anne Cimarelli-Stears, Health Educator, Sr., SNAP-Ed
Levi Conall, Database Specialist, SNAP-Ed
Mary Conner, Administrative Associate
Jonneen Cook, Program Coordinator, Urban Horticulture
Yvonne Cooper, Program Coordinator, Urban Horticulture
Stephanie Copeland, Program Coordinator, Sr., Brain Builders
Juliana Davies, Program Coordinator, SNAP-Ed
Sharon Dewey, Instructional Specialist, ANR/Horticulture
Carol Diemer, Instructional Specialist, Sr., SNAP-Ed
Veronica Duron, Administrative Secretary, 4-H YD
Angela Entzel, Program Coordinator, SNAP-Ed/Local Food Access
Robin Etnyre, Program Coordinator, 4-H YD
Tamara Floyd, Program Coordinator, Sr., FRC
Jose Gamiz, Instructional Specialist, EFNEP/SNAP-Ed
Maricela Garcia, Instructional Specialist, Sr., SNAP-Ed
Eunice Gonzales, Business Manager, Sr.
Cristina Guterman, Health Educator, Sr., SNAP-Ed
Kyle Harrington, Research Technician, ANR Field Crops
Chantel Harrison, Instructional Specialist, SNAP-Ed
Julie Hasty, Extension Program Assistant, AZ Project WET
Lucrecia Hernandez, Program Aide, Brain Builders
Brittany Hobe, Associate, Accountant, SNAP-Ed
Nate Holsome, General Maintenance Mechanic
Virginia James, Program Coordinator, Sr., Brain Builders
Amber Jones, Administrative Secretary
Pamela Justice, Program Coordinator, Sr., AZ Project WET
Heidi Keeling, Instructional Specialist, EFNEP
Celeste Kimble, Administrative Secretary, MG
Erin Kirkpatrick, Instructional Specialist Coordinator, FRC
Shae Knowlton, Instructional Specialist, SNAP-Ed
Sara Krznarich, Instructional Specialist, AZ Project WET
Sarah Lane, Instructional Specialist, Sr., SNAP-Ed
Kirti Mathura, Instructional Specialist, Community Garden Education
Chesa Mendez, Program Coordinator, Sr., FRC
Amber McCrary, Instructional Specialist Sr., SNAP-Ed
Brandon Moak, Program Coordinator, Sr., ANR / Ag Literacy
Cathy Munger, Systems Administrator, Principal
Delmi Ortega, Program Coordinator, Sr., EFNEP
Barbara Owens, Instructional Specialist, AZ Project WET
Haydee Pardee, Program Coordinator, 4-H YD/TPP
Vanessa Parra, Accounting Assistant, Sr.
Kaitlin Poe-Orsburn, Program Coordinator, Sr., Smartscap
Norma Rodriguez, Instructional Specialist, Sr., SNAP-Ed
Lupe Reyes, Administrative Secretary
Janel Rogers, Instructional Specialist, EFNEP
Gina Rosenfeld, Program Coordinator, FRC
Carlo Saldana, Program Coordinator, FRC
Karen Salem, Program Aide, SNAP-Ed Garden/Food Access
Sheri Semones, Administrative Secretary
Cynthia Smith, Program Coordinator, Sr., Brian Builders
Elizabeth Schnoll, Health Educator, Sr., SNAP-Ed
Dotty Spears, Program Coordinator, Sr., SNAP-Ed
Mary Ann Stoll, Program Coordinator, Sr., AZ Project WET
Mitchell Thomae, General Maintenance Mechanic
Betty Thompson, Health Educator, Sr., SNAP-Ed
Kimberly Villalvazo, Instructional Specialist, SNAP-Ed
Linda Wade, Administrative Secretary, 4-H YD
Dan Warren, Systems Administrator, Principal
Tricey Wilks, Program Coordinator, SNAP-Ed Social Media/Marketing
Elisabeth Williams, Program Coordinator, Sr., FRC
Jennifer Wolf, Program Coordinator, 4-H YD
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