Concurrent Session Speaker Bios

Bio Sketch for: Naomi Bechtold (Discover Your Money “Habitudes”)

Naomi Bechtold is a Family Resource Management Educator from Purdue Extension in Marion County. In her role as an Extension Educator, Naomi provides the link between university research and Indiana residents by creating innovative learning opportunities that address local issues. She works with community partners to create and develop educational programs centered on personal financial management and healthy living. Naomi has an AB in Public Policy from Duke University and an MBA from Lehigh University.

Bio Sketch for: Lisa Cangany (Holiday Traditions and Stress)

Lisa Cangany is a Health and Human Science Extension Educator in Boone County. She has been an Educator in Boone County for four years. Previously she was a Program Assistant I Hamilton County and taught middle and high school for 13 years. Lisa is married and has two grown children.

Bio Sketch for: Cindy Barnett (Downsizing Your Financial Maze)

Cindy Barnett was born and raised in West Terre Haute, IN. After she graduated with her BS and MS degrees from Indiana State, she began her Extension career. During her 30+ years with Purdue Extension, she has served in 5 counties working with Indiana’s youth and families. Currently, she is the Health and Human Sciences Extension Educator in Whitley County. Cindy has one daughter, Katie, who is a junior at Purdue University.

Bio Sketch for: Alison Walton, Changyeon Lee, and Ryan Carter (Your Numbers: What They Mean for a Healthy You and Me)

Alison Walton is an Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacist and Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice at Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana. Lee and Ryan are two pharmacy students completing their final professional year at Butler University. The pharmacy team joins us today to discuss your numbers and what they mean for improved health.

Bio Sketch for: Barbara Beaulieu (Blocks: More than Just Play)

Barbara is a Human Development Specialist with Purdue Extension. One of the state Extension programs that she provides leadership to is Block Party; a program for parents and caregivers of young children. Block play training is also provided to childcare providers throughout the state by HHS Educators. Today, we explore how children learn school readiness skills through playing with blocks.
Bio Sketch for: Roy Ballard and Megan Addison (FoodLINK)

Roy Ballard is the Purdue Extension Educator for Agriculture and Natural Resources for Hancock County. For the past 8 years and for Floyd County for the 14 years prior to that, Roy has had the pleasure of working with a very diverse clientele from farmers producing tobacco, corn, soybeans, hog and cattle to those with niche markets in vegetables, fruit, agritourism, mushrooms, flowers, botanicals to name just a few.

During his Extension career Roy has dedicated much of his time to assisting small farm owners who desire to diversify their existing operations with new enterprises and new marketing systems and with beginning farmers seeking ways to keep their acreage productive, profitable and personally rewarding.

Roy holds a B.S. degree in Agricultural Education from Purdue University and a Master’s Degree in Secondary Education from Indiana University. He has used this training to instruct Vocational Horticulture students for 12 years and to help farmers and other rural landowners to remain sustainable in the face of substantial change in the rural community. Roy also serves as the Indiana Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Coordinator. Roy is a beekeeper and a gardener in his time away from the office.

Megan Addison is the Health and Human Sciences Educator for Purdue Extension in Hancock County. She is a 2008 graduate of Purdue University and in 2013 she received her master’s degree in special education with a focus on early childhood. Megan taught high school Family and Consumer Sciences for six years before joining Purdue Extension in August 2014. Megan’s specialty area for Extension is Health and Wellness; however, she also offers programming related to: healthy food choices, parenting and family, and family resource management.

Bio Sketch for: Beverly Earnhart (Your Coins at Work a World Away)

Beverly is a past IEHA State President currently serving a second term as the ACWW USA Area President. She is a 45 year member of IEHA and enjoys the travel to visit with societies and share the ACWW story about where your Coins for Friendship to go help others around the world. She and her husband Gary will celebrate 50 years of marriage in July this year. They have raised two daughters, Roberta and Anita, who have given them five grandchildren and one great-granddaughter...oh and can’t forget the two sons-in-laws. Life has been good. Roberta has been blessed with family and lots of wonderful friends worldwide that she has made through her church, Indiana Extension Homemakers Association, Country Women’s Council, USA and Associated Country Women of the World.

Bio Sketch for: Linda Curley and Allison Goshorn (Brain Health: 14 Tips for Longevity)

Linda Curley is a Health and Human Sciences Educator in Lake County. Her focus area is human development.

Allison Goshorn is a Health and Human Sciences Educator in LaPorte County. Her focus area is health and wellness.
Bio Sketch for: Jo Almond (Celebrating 15 Years of First Books for Kids)

Jo Almond is a past State President, First Books for Kids Developer and Chair, Exchange Homemaker Chair, CWC Treasurer, past ACWW Officer and past NVON Officer. Jo has also been an IEHA member for almost 40 years.

Bio Sketch for: Lisa Graves, Melissa Maulding and Jodee Ellett (Feast or Famine: Working Together to Address Hunger in Your Community)

Lisa Graves is an Assistant Program Leader for Purdue HHS Extension and Foods and Nutrition Specialist in the Department of Nutrition Science at Purdue University. She is responsible for working with faculty to develop educational programs and materials related to their scientific findings, and then assist Extension Educators in using the information to meet the needs of the audiences in their communities. As a registered dietitian, Lisa is committed to fostering the health and wellness of others.

Melissa Maulding has working with Extension since 2003. She has held both field staff and specialist positions. She has served as the Director of the Nutrition Education Programs since 2011. She loves Purdue Extension because it gives her the opportunity to make a difference for Indiana every day. When she is not at work, you will find her working as a volunteer counselor at her church in Lafayette.

Jodee Ellett is the Local Foods Coordinator for Purdue Extension. Jodee works with statewide partners such as the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, Health, and Education, the Indiana Cooperative Development Center and Indiana University on programs such as Farm to School, Good Agricultural Practices, and Indiana Grown. She is expanding the Purdue resources for local food to integrate county and campus resources. Her main focus is to rebuild local and regional food systems in Indiana by providing hands-on community development, programming, education and outreach for individuals, groups and communities looking to coordinate their local food projects and take advantage of this economic opportunity.

Bio Sketch for: Angie Abbott (Ask Angie)

Angie Abbott is the Associate Director and Program Leader for Purdue Extension in the College of Health and Human Sciences. Angie is a registered dietitian and Extension Specialist in the area of nutrition education programs that target limited resource audiences. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in dietetics from Ball State University and also completed a Master’s degree and a post-graduate dietetic internship through Ball State University. Angie is currently pursuing a Doctoral degree from Creighton University in Educational Leadership.

Jason Henderson is Associate Dean in the College of Agriculture and Director of Purdue Extension. Prior to being named Director of Extension, Jason served as Vice President and Omaha Branch Executive at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City.

Jason is a nationally recognized expert in agriculture and rural issues. He has published more than 60 research articles in academic and Federal Reserve publications on topics such as land values, entrepreneurship, demographics, the growth of knowledge-based activity in rural America, the use of electronic commerce in agricultural industries, and the growth of value-added food manufacturing activity. His research on the agricultural and rural economy has been quoted by policy officials, researchers, and leading media outlets including the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Financial Times and USA Today. In addition, Jason has been interviewed on CNBC and Fox Business and provided testimony on agricultural credit conditions to congressional subcommittees.

Jason holds Master’s and Doctorate degrees in agricultural economics from Purdue University and a Bachelor’s of Science in economics from Central College in Pella, Iowa. Jason was raised on a family dairy farm in northeast Iowa.

Bio Sketch for: Russ Query (Grandparents Gone Wired)

Russ is the Web Application Developer for Health and Human Sciences Extension at Purdue University. Russ enjoys trying to understand new technologies through practical application. Russ has two children; daughter Rachel (26) and son Jared (23) and one grandson Austin (5). For fun Russ loves to exercise through weight lifting and running and has completed 6 full marathons and several half marathons. One fun fact about Russ is before the age of 11; Russ had over 100 stitches in his head from falling so much.

Bio Sketch for: Orion Bell (Beyond Blue: Depression and Anxiety in Older Adults and the Impact on Family Caregivers)

Orion Bell is the President and CEO of CICOA Aging & In-Home Solutions, a position he has held since October 2008. CICOA coordinates a variety of home and community-based services that promote the independence, dignity and quality of life of older adults, persons with disabilities and the people who care for them in Central Indiana. Orion serves as chair of the Mental Health and Aging Coalition and is a board member of Mental Health America of Indiana. He chairs the consumer advisory board for the Healthy Aging Brain Center at Eskenazi Hospital in Indianapolis and a member of the Indiana Department of Transportation’s ADA Community Advisory Working Group.

Bio Sketch for: Dawn Curry (Everyday Gardening for Everyone)

Dawn Curry has been a member of IEHA for 20+ years. She is a Master Gardener from Porter County and graduated from the program in May 2014. She has enjoyed gardening her entire life. She resides in Hebron, Indiana and is a Purdue and IU graduate.
Bio Sketch for: Annetta Jones, Harriet Armstrong and Mary Ann Lienhart-Cross (3 Steps to Organizing Your Medical Records)

All three of the Extension Educators work in Health and Human Sciences with a specialty in Family Resource Management. Annetta and Harriet recently attended a special health insurance training sponsored by the Maryland Extension Service. Annetta is the Extension Educator and CED in Porter County, Harriet is the Extension Educator in Bartholomew County and Mary Ann is the Extension Educator and CED in Elkhart County.

Bio Sketch for: Kate Kester (Indiana Family Impact Seminars and the Role of the Consortium of Family Organizations)

Kate Kester is the Assistant Director of the Center for Families at Purdue University. CFF is an interdisciplinary research center housed in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies. The Center serves as a catalyst to integrate outreach, teaching, and research activities that support families. It increases and enhances collaborations among academic disciplines, professionals, policy makers, corporations and community organizations. Along with Center for Families Director, Shelley MacDermid-Wadsworth, Kate is responsible for coordinating the efforts of the Indiana Consortium of Family Organizations, which supports the annual Family Impact Seminars of Indiana.

Bio Sketch for: Susan Riehle (Membership: Easy (and Fun) Ways to Increase and Retain)

Susan is the County President of the Bartholomew County Home Extension Clubs and owns her own special effects manufacturing business, Studio Productions, Inc. She knows a lot about leadership, motivating people and increasing interest in organizations -- particularly guerrilla marketing.

Bio Sketch for: Connie Lawson (Senior Scams and Identity Theft)

Connie Lawson is Indiana’s 61st Secretary of State. As Indiana’s Chief Elections Official, she is focused on ensuring integrity and security for our state’s elections. Since taking office, Secretary Lawson championed the most sweeping election reforms since photo ID, and has led the effort to clean Indiana’s voter rolls. A tireless advocate for increasing Indiana’s financial literacy and protecting Indiana investors, Secretary Lawson educates Hoosiers about smart money decisions and fights for stringent penalties for white collar criminals. She is committed to putting financial criminals behind bars, and believes that stronger financial literacy is the best way to protect Hoosiers from falling prey to scams. She also travels the state speaking with high school students about credit cards and how they impact your future, chatting with senior citizens about how to protect their retirement nest eggs and reaches out to newlyweds about marrying their finances. Secretary Lawson has been recognized as one of the Indianapolis Business Journal’s Women of Influence and she received the Zup’s Imagination Award for her service to United Way of Central Indiana. In addition to her public work, she and her husband Jack own Lawson & Company, an auctioneer and real estate company.
Bio Sketch for: Jennifer Stefancik, Denise Schroeder, Harriet Armstrong and Angie Abbott (Costa Rica: Off the Tourist Path)

Angie Abbott is the Associate Director and Program Leader for Purdue Extension in the College of Health and Human Sciences. Angie is a registered dietitian and Extension Specialist in the area of nutrition education programs that target limited resource audiences. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in dietetics from Ball State University. She also completed a Master’s degree and a post-graduate dietetic internship through Ball State University. Angie is currently pursuing a Doctoral degree from Creighton University.

Jennifer Stefancik is Extension Educator is Daviess County and been on staff for 8 years. Jennifer graduated from Indiana State University with a BS in Family and Consumer Sciences Education and a MS in Family and Consumer Sciences. Work in Daviess County with variety of audiences including Latinos, Burmese, and Haitians in addition to our traditional Extension clientele.

Harriet Armstrong is the HHS Educator in Bartholomew County. She is a graduate of Purdue University with her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Vocational Consumer and Family Sciences Education. She and her husband, John, live in Columbus, IN. They have two grown daughters. Besides working as an Purdue Educator the last two years, Harriet has taught both at the college and secondary levels. She enjoys working outdoors and meeting new people.

Denise Schroeder, Purdue Cooperative Extension Service White County, is originally from the Brookston area. She is currently the Health and Human Sciences Extension Educator and County Director and has been with Purdue for 20 years. Prior to coming to Extension, Denise taught Family and Consumer Sciences in the public schools in southern Indiana, Florida and Maine. She also taught nutrition at Pensacola Junior College and Lurleene B. Wallace Junior College. While living in Maine, Denise worked for the U. S. Navy as a civilian in the Family Service Center doing educational programming. When she relocated to the Pensacola, FL area she continued to work for the Navy as an Educational Systems Coordinator for the Navy Recruiting Unit, where she trained instructors and conducted evaluations. As a HHS Extension Educator, Denise does educational programming on finances, nutrition, and family well-being. Denise has a B.S. from Purdue University in Consumer and Family Sciences Education and an M.S. in Family Life Education. Denise and her husband, Bill, have a grain and livestock farm south of Reynolds. In her free time Denise enjoys knitting, sewing, quilting and showing horses.