

CD News

Inside this issue:

Student Spotlight

Student Evaluation Report
Highlights and Follow Up

News from the SAC

For More Info...

- Visit <http://www.gpidea.org>
- Visit <http://www.ncrcrd.iastate.edu/distancedegree/index.htm>
- Contact Susan Fey, susanfey@iastate.edu
- Contact Mary Emery, memery@iastate.edu

This is a program of the Great Plains IDEA.

Summer courses avail-



able! Visit: <http://www.ncrcrd.iastate.edu/distancedegree/index.htm#who>

Student Spotlight: Linda Diehl, Kansas State University

Linda Diehl is a student in the Community Development On-line Master's Program at Kansas State University. She is also one of the members of the Student Advisory Council. She has a long history in government and economic development in the state of Kansas, "My husband is originally from Kansas and he moved our family here in 1995. [We] live in a rural area where my husband and I farm, run a construction company and are raising 3 teenage daughters. I also work full time at KSU, as part of the Employer Relations Team. I have been interested in community development since I worked for the local radio company in town and assisted the local business owners with their marketing plans."

Her background in government and community development efforts are what brought her to the master's program, "I was a national and state officer for a non-partisan political organization for ten years... [In my work at the radio station], I struggled trying to get the local business owners to market their business. I believe in marketing and would consult them on their entire marketing plan. I decided that with more education I would have a better opportunity to work with local small town economics

that is why I went back to school to get my bachelor's with a goal of doing a community planning graduate program when I finished."

Aside from her professional life, her family also inspired her to get involved in community and economic development, "My family has been farming since they moved to Kansas from Pennsylvania in the early 1800's. They are good strong, independent people that I have very high respect for. The men in the family have been working a full time job to subsidize their income and farm for five generations. That is what encouraged me to get involved in economic planning for this area, because of the amount of people I know that are working two jobs just so they can continue to farm out of a desire to feed this country."

Linda is most excited about the Community Development Program because she loves "helping others and in this program. I am learning so much about community



Linda Diehl, KSU

community development and the importance in working with the members of the community. Each class in the program builds on the things that I have learned in the last." Linda has already applied her coursework, specifically from the summer grant writing course, as she is helping groups in her community write grants.

In Linda's free time, she enjoys watching a good softball game, volleyball game, basketball game, as well as spending time with her family.

"I want to work with economic development for rural America, preferably in Central Kansas. I prefer to work with small business to create new jobs and opportunities."

Student Report Highlights and Follow Up

Faculty and staff in the Community Development On-line Master's Program value and appreciate student feedback received during the Spring evaluation process. Students are asked their opinions on many issues in the program so that advancements can be made. During this year's survey and interview process, it was clear that students would like more course offerings, continued and enhanced communication, and more ease with registration for courses and the use of technology.

The institutional representatives for the program have met and efforts are being made to follow up on student needs. Firstly, new faculty are being brought to the table from various participating institutions so that more courses can be taught in the program. The course Non-profit Management will be offered through Kansas State University in Spring 2008, and more courses in the Building Economic Capacity Track will be offered in the Spring and Summer of 2008. Additionally, a new course on coastal policy will be offered in the Summer of 2008 through Iowa State University in the Natural Resource Management Track.

Faculty and staff in the program will continue to follow up on the recommendations that were indicated during the Spring 2007 student evaluation process.

News from the Student Advisory Council

Submitted by Linda Diehl

Minutes for Student Advisory Council for June 26, 2007

Attendees: Susan Fey, Linda Diehl, Karen Blewett, Mary Emery, Suzanne Jamison

- Susan Fey reported on how they were excited about the prospective new classes in the program and increase in new student registration in the program. Susan also expressed her excitement in the coordinated effort to combine the NCRCRD Web site and the Great Plains IDEA Web site. She said they were planning to organize their efforts for the convenience of the students. With the merger of the two Community Development Students would only have to go to one place for information. All of the Community Development Program information will soon be found on the Great Plains IDEA Web site.
- Karen reported on the CDS conference and said that she felt it was a great opportunity for all students to try and attend. Karen will be following up on this subject in the August newsletter.
- Susan questioned if others had trouble receiving the blog messages. She reported having issues with the blog working correctly and said that she would do some more research on the issue and get back with us. It was also brought up that with the combining of the NCRCRD Web site and the Great Plains IDEA Web site that would probably be a great place to post reference documents and make them available for students. Mary Emery also mentioned the Basecamp work site; we could use this while funding is available. This site comes equipped with a file share, a whiteboard and a live chat.
- It was also reported that the Youth Development group was interested in taking classes and possibly getting a double major in Community planning. One particular class was a Youth and Community Planning class that would be interesting for those of us that interested in working with the youth.
- Susan spoke about SAC members contacting and welcoming new students. This effort will be put into motion soon.
- The next meeting of the Student Advisory Group is on July 24 at 6:30 pm.

If you have any issues you would like discussed at this meeting, please contact Susan Fey, susanfey@iastate.edu or one of the SAC members.

Publication Information

This newsletter is published by the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development.

The NCRCRD prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual

orientation, or marital or family status. To report discrimination, contact the NCRCRD.

For more information about this newsletter, contact Susan Fey, susan-fey@iastate.edu



NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL CENTER FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY • 107 CURTISS HALL • AMES, IOWA 50011-1050
(515) 294-8321 • (515) 294-3180 fax • www.ncrcrd.iastate.edu