

# Extension Express

PURDUE EXTENSION LAPORTE COUNTY - MARCH



## Highlights

### County Extension Director | Kelsey Guadarrama

**CED Update** | Working with the Extension Board to host our Extension Board Annual Meeting. Be on the lookout for your invitation.

**Open Positions** | Currently we have one position open. We have interviewed and are hopeful for the candidate.

**Office Trainings** | Asked the LaPorte City Fire Department to come to the office to train staff on the AED and CPR.

### 4-H Youth Development | Kelsey Guadarrama & Lauren Allison

**Spring Break Camps** | We have several opportunities planned over LaPorte County Spring Breaks. Our camps, in collaboration with Chrissie Lai, HHS Educator, will be a mix of STEM and Healthy Living activities. We will be offering 2 sessions of a 3 day/full day camp for grades 4-8, at the LaPorte County Fairgrounds. We will also be offering a 2 day/half day camp for grades K-3, at the LaPorte County Fairgrounds. Lauren will also be partnering with the Exchange for a half day opportunity on 3/28 and 4/4.

**Workshop-a-Thon** | Planning this event for April 27th. We have invited project superintendents to teach about their projects and gain interest. This is an effort to grow some of our smaller projects.

**Community Outreach** | We are continuing community outreach efforts by hosting a table at Lake Hills Elementary STEM nights throughout the year. We will be visiting South Central 3rd grade classrooms in March. We are also meeting with the NIESC about possible partnership opportunities.

**Community Contacts** | In our continued partnership efforts with the LaPorte Library Exchange, we went to the Exchange to learn about the equipment so we have a better understanding and can better help our volunteers or answer questions they may have about what is offered at the Exchange. We are also working with the Lubeznik Center for the Arts and the LaPorte County Historical Society Museum to provide workshop opportunities and museum tours for youth.

**Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care** | Hosted the first Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care in which 28 youth attended.

**Robotics** | Robotics workshops have begun. They are utilizing Vex Robots, Spheros, and coding lessons. This opportunity has brought in several new 4-H families.

## Outreach

CEC | Check out this Purdue Extension's Impact for 2023

**Impact Report 2023**

4-H YD | Enrollment is nearly 1,000 youth. We need roughly 40 more kids!

CD | WorkReady curriculum at Grace Learning Center

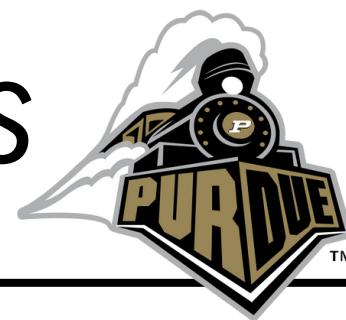
HHS | Presenting "Be Heart Smart" at Cambridge Square in March and planning "Dining With Diabetes" series

ANR | Had an interview with a promising candidate.



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### Community Development | Mary Komenas

**Digital Ready Businesses:** Purdue Extension Community Development's Digital Ready initiative advances the capacity of small businesses to strengthen their knowledge and application of broadband strategies. Participants learn about the importance of the digital economy, how to incorporate digital strategies into the workplace and build technical knowledge.

**Work Ready and Critical Thinking:** I am currently working with the Bridge and Grace Learning Center to provide these programs to participants. Purdue Extension's Work Ready Program is designed to teach life skills necessary to increase the number of qualified applicants for job openings in the United States. The program can be taught to youth as well as displaced adult workers who have limited work experience or education. Through this series of 10 interactive 1-hour modules, participants learn about personal accountability, career planning, time management, budgeting and money management and how to present themselves in a positive way when seeking a job.

Specifically, the Work Ready program's goals are:

- Increase participants' soft skills
- Increase participants' chances of securing a job and maintaining the position
- Resume development
- Successful interview skills

**Data Resource:** Supply Chain Marketplace: [www.sctool-gscmi.org](http://www.sctool-gscmi.org), The Supply Chain Marketplace is designed to increase purchases by Indiana companies (parts, materials, goods & services) locally to improve the economy, find other local manufacturers to partner to produce enhanced products with added value, and enable EDCs to attract companies to locate in Indiana by promoting Indiana's manufacturing supply base.

### Health and Human Sciences | Chrissie Lai

**Cooking:** Creative Cooking series continues in March. I will be teaching a Slow Cooker cooking session at the Union Mills branch library. In future programs, I will also discuss the basics of air fryer cooking, the health benefits of using it, and the different types of air fryers available. Throughout the program I provide recipes for different dishes that can be cooked in an air fryer, as well as tips and tricks on how to use an air fryer.

**Captain Cash:** I completed teaching Captain Cash for three third grade classrooms at Rolling Prairie Elementary School. Grand Heritage Credit Union donated piggy banks for all the students. A few schools in LaPorte County reached out and are interested in having me come teach Captain Cash this year. I will be contacting these schools and setting up my visits. I will also be sending out flyers to the local elementary schools to spread the word about the Captain Cash program. I am excited to continue teaching financial literacy to students in LaPorte County.

**Newsletter:** The "Extension Line" newsletter is sent out bimonthly on a continuous basis. We want to provide our readers with up-to-date information about our services and how to contact us. We also want to give them a chance to hear from our staff and ask questions. Lastly, we want to provide them with helpful tips and resources for living a healthy and active lifestyle.

**Spring Break Camp:** I am collaborating with Kelsey & Lauren, 4-H educators, on hosting LaPorte County Spring Break Camps. The camps will provide an opportunity for students to explore science and learn about healthy foods, and develop outdoor skills. We will also have a range of arts and crafts activities, as well as games and entertainment. I am looking forward to an exciting 2 weeks of learning and fun!