

# EXTENSION EXPRESS

SPRING EDITION

## **COUNTY EXTENSION DIRECTOR | KELSEY GUADARRAMA**

Working to utilize our resources in order to have effective and impactful programming. **Check out the 2024 Impact Report!** Please consider attending our Extension Board Annual Meeting on March 18th. For a formal invitation please reach out to Kathy Ulman (kulman@purdue.edu).

## **4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT | LAUREN ALLISON & KELSEY GUDARRAMA**

### **SCHOOL PROGRAMMING |**

We have had a great time visiting schools throughout the county and continue to grow our school programming efforts. In total we have reached over 400 youth through our in-school educational opportunities.

- South Central Elementary- 4-H information session and STEM lessons with all 3rd grade students
- Westville Elementary- 4-H information session to all 3rd and 4th grade students
- Lake Hills Elementary- Soccer for Success programming with all 4th and 5th grade students and Invention Convention with 30 kids in K-6
- Rolling Prairie Elementary- STEM and 4-H information session with all Kindergarteners
- New Prairie High School- Resume writing workshop with 40 high school students

### **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS |**

We have continued our partnership with Youth Service Bureau of LaPorte County to support educational opportunities through their School Buddies program at Handley Elementary. This program reaches 40 youth.

### **ROBOTICS |**

Using the grant we received from Howmet last year, we were able to purchase VEX robotics equipment to use with our 4-H groups. We have been able to host several STEM opportunities for mini 4-H youth, and have 2 competitive teams (1 junior team and 1 senior team) that will represent LaPorte County at the statewide 4-H Robotics competition for the first time!

### **MY HOMETOWN IS COOL |**

We are working with Mary Komenas (Community Development) to complete the My Hometown is Cool program with our junior leaders. They will choose a community project to fund and then work to complete their project this year.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT | MARY KOMENAS**

### **DIGITAL READY BUSINESSES |**

The digital age is here and having an online presence is very important for businesses. Digital Ready provides businesses with the basic knowledge to have an online presence or ramp up an existing one. By incorporating an online presence strategy, businesses will become more competitive and sustainable. Currently hosting a cohort and will be another cohort in June.

### **BEGINNER GUIDE TO GRANT WRITING |**

For more than 20 years, the award-winning Beginner's Guide to Grant Writing program has been helping Hoosiers improve their communities by leveraging grants of all sizes. Participants of the Beginner's Guide to Grant Writing workshop draft and polish a grant proposal and learn how to navigate the grant process. Both beginners and experienced grant writers learn to develop ideas into winning proposals, identify and build relationships with potential funders, and speak and write confidently about how their proposal will make an impact. We will have a cohort in March/April in Michigan City!

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## AG & NATURAL RESOURCES | JESI DAVENPORT

### BARN QUILT WORKSHOP |

This year we introduced LaPorte County to the Barn Quilt Workshop series. We have 18 participants enrolled in the 4 session workshop. By the end of the class, everyone will get to take home a 2'x2' custom barn quilt able to be hung outside on barns, homes, or businesses. Throughout each session lessons are taught on color theory, geometry, and ways to improve mental health through a creative outlet. We are hoping to offer this workshop again in the near future!

### UAV TRAINING |

There is still time to sign up for the March 18-19 UAV Training being held in LaPorte County. This class provides you with everything you need to take and pass the Part 107 test needed for a commercial drone license. This class is beneficial to not only farmers wanting to utilize a drone, but those in law enforcement, reality, or even photography purposes.

### ANNIE'S PROJECT PILOT |

For the next few months, I will be working with South Central's Ag program to pilot a modified version of Annie's Project. This project helps strengthen the skills needed to operate ones own business. We are modifying this to better prepare students for life after high school.

### NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY |

Please help me figure out what areas I should focus on by taking the survey below. This will help me become better prepared and provide programming that will better our community as a whole.



[View Link Here](#)  
or scan the code

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES | CHRISSIE LAI

### THE HEART SAFE TASKFORCE |

I'm excited to share that I have recently joined the Heart Safe Taskforce committee! This initiative is dedicated to improving community preparedness for sudden cardiac events by increasing awareness, expanding CPR training, and ensuring better access to AEDs.

### BE HEART SMART |

In March, I will deliver the Be Heart Smart program at the Activity Center for Older Adults through LaPorte City Parks. This program focuses on heart health education, empowering older adults to understand cardiovascular risks, make heart-healthy lifestyle choices, and recognize the signs of cardiac emergencies. I look forward to engaging with the community and sharing valuable heart health knowledge.

### LOOKING AHEAD |

I'm excited about the opportunities ahead, from expanding training initiatives to increasing community engagement. I'll be sharing updates as we make progress on these initiatives.

If you have any ideas or would like to get involved, I'd love to hear from you!

## CONTACT US

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