

**June 16, 2011**

**TO: Western Extension Directors**

**Re: Western Evaluation Capacity Training (WECT)**

On behalf of the Western Extension Directors Association, your state is invited to select four individuals to participate in the Western Evaluation Capacity Training (WECT). The nominated professionals will be invited to join one of two cohorts in an extended, in-depth program evaluation training opportunity. The end result of this training will be improved capacity among Extension professionals for program evaluation that can be communicated with decision makers and the public being served.

These cohorts of educators are facilitated by Oregon State University and Washington State University Extension leaders in program evaluation and professional development. The 18 month long program will commence in September 2011 on the Oregon State University campus in Corvallis with a two day start-up program. The next phase of the program will be conducted through monthly webinars and self study. The final wrap-up of the training will be held in Tucson, Arizona in February of 2013.

The nominated individuals are expected to be professionals who have had prior experience and training in basic program planning and evaluation with an interest in expanding their working knowledge of program evaluation. The eighteen month program will guide participants through designing, implementing, delivering, and reporting on an in-depth program evaluation. In choosing nominees, we suggest that state directors select individuals that represent diverse program areas and whose current position may involve serving in workplace teams or groups where their new program evaluation skills could be applied.

Nominations for participants are due **July 19, 2011**. Send nominations to: [gretchen.cuevas@oregonstate.edu](mailto:gretchen.cuevas@oregonstate.edu) and should include:

- Nominees Name
- Title
- Program Area
- Contact Information

Letters of invitation will be sent directly to each nominee with links to the WECT website and registration site. You may access the WECT website at [www.agsci.oregonstate.edu/wect](http://www.agsci.oregonstate.edu/wect) for more information. There you can see the full schedule, presenter bios and access a printable program brochure.

The cost of the eighteen month WECT program is \$600. This fee is inclusive with the exception of travel and lodging. Payment for the program fees will be accepted by purchase order through Oregon State University.

We are excited to bring this groundbreaking opportunity to the Western Extension professionals. If you have any questions regarding the program, please do not hesitate to contact either of us directly.

Sincerely,

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