We need:
A national Extension education evaluation portal to improve evaluation capacity within the Land Grant system.

**PRESENTING ISSUE**

**OUR RESPONSE**

University of Wisconsin-Extension investigated...
National trends and efforts and the perspectives of:
- National program leaders
- Project directors
- Extension Committee on Organization and Policy
- eXtension
- American Evaluation Association members
- NIFA administration
- Evaluation professionals

**CURRENT CONTEXT**

- Shared leadership between NIFA, ECOP, states and the profession is unrealized
- Data use varies
- Capacity disparities exist across states and institutions
- Evaluation and planning are not well connected
- Culturally relevant resources lacking
- Organizations offer few rewards or incentives for best practices
- Impact data are weak across the board

**ROOT CAUSES**

- Our institutional cultures support different, at times conflicting, data uses
- Some of our data needs are shared, while others are unique to our respective institutions
- Evaluation capacity within NIFA and across the Land Grant system is inadequate
- Information technologies are viewed as the primary solution

**DESIGNED FUTURE STATE**

- NIFA and LGUs effectively communicate, as a system, the significance of our integrated portfolio to elected officials, key stakeholders and the public at large
- NIFA uses evidence to inform Extension programmatic decisions
- We address our respective programmatic performance management expectations
- We leverage our varied funding authorities to build Extension evaluation capacity equitably across the Land Grant system

**ASSESSING SYSTEM GAPS IN EXTENSION EDUCATION EVALUATION RESOURCES**

**SOLUTION**

- Data management and use is framed by shared mission
- PDE resources are accessible and relevant to all
- National reporting systems are aligned
- Capacity building is current, robust and available to all
- There is equity across states, institutions and regions

**SOLUTION IN PRACTICE**

The desired future state can be actualized through the engagement of four key players, each with its own circle of influence:
- NIFA... through its programs, awards and relationship to Congress
- ECOP... through its partnerships, policy and commitments
- Extension regions and states... through their resource investments and sharing
- The profession of evaluation... through the development of resources, communities and competencies

**RETURN ON INVESTMENT**

✓ Improved impact from using evaluation to guide program effort
✓ Leaders have the data they need to communicate impact and value
✓ Greater system capacity to do PDE well
✓ Greater equity amongst institutions: 1862s and MSIs

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