

# Foundations of Practice

*Community Development  
Core Competencies for  
Extension Professionals in  
the North Central Region*

Welcome to Session 1 of  
Understanding Communities and  
their Dynamics. We will begin  
promptly at 1:30 p.m.



# Overview

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The North Central CRD program leaders recognized the increasing need for Extension professionals to have basic knowledge and skills in the processes, tools and techniques of community development work. In 2003, they undertook action to develop a multi-state effort to meet these needs.

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# Overview

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Working in collaboration with the other Regional Rural Development Centers and CSREES-USDA, a conceptual framework was developed, and a white paper was written and presented at the NACDEP conference in February 2004. This conceptual framework is titled *The Foundations of Practice*.

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# Components of *The Foundations of Practice*

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1. Understanding Communities and Their Dynamics  
(Offered through distance education in March and September 2006.)
2. Developing Successful Community Initiatives  
(Train-the-trainers workshop, Nov. 1-3, 2006.)
3. Areas of Specialization and Emphasis  
(Offered through various regional workshops; interest groups; Asset Inventory.)

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# Component 1

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*Understanding Community and their Dynamics* is a series of seven core competencies that focus on the ability to understand:

- Community of place.
- The nature of public issues.
- The dynamics and interdependencies of the various segments of the community.
- The basics of community development work.

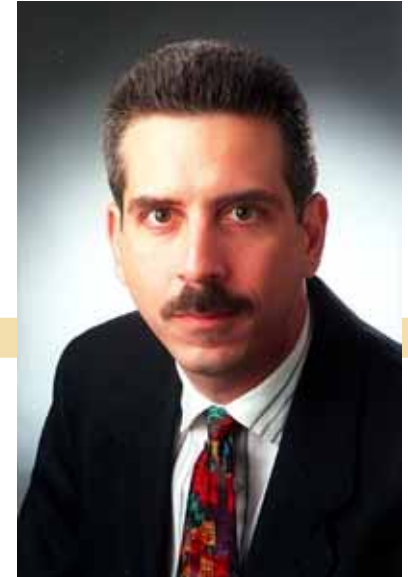
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# Session 1



Steve Jeanetta

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## Introduction to the Series and Basic Understanding of Community

**September 19 and 20**

**1:30 to 3 p.m. CST**

The ability to more fully understand the complexity and dynamics of issues and situations in a community context is important to be able to develop effective programs.

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# Session 2



Andy Lewis

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## Community Demographics

September 26 and 27

1:30 to 3 p.m. CST

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The ability to understand demographic profile and trends in a community is essential to identifying issues and sustainable alternatives.



# Session 3



Bill Pinkovitz

SLIDE

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## Community Economics

October 3 and 4

1:30 to 3 p.m. CST

The ability to understand the economic base of a community and the dynamics between the various economic sectors—including the ways in which money turns over in the community, leaves the community, or is invested—are important to providing a vibrant economy.

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# Session 4



Janet Ayres

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## Community Power Structure

October 10 and 11

1:30 to 3 p.m. CST

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The ability to identify who the decision makers are in the community, the resources they affect, and the power structure is crucial in gaining access to a community, gaining trust and credibility, and being effective in educational programs.



# Session 5



Mary Emery

SLIDE **10**

## Natural Resources and Sustainability

**October 17 and 18**

**1:30 to 3 p.m. CST**

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The ability to understand the impact of decisions on the quality of natural resources and the long-term sustainability of the environment is an important component of community development.



# Session 6

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## Community Situational Analysis

October 24 and 25

1:30 to 3 p.m. CST

Anne Heinze Silvis

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The ability to analyze a particular issue or situation in a community from a historical, political, cultural and community context and determine Extension's role in the issue is an important competency of community development.



# Session 7

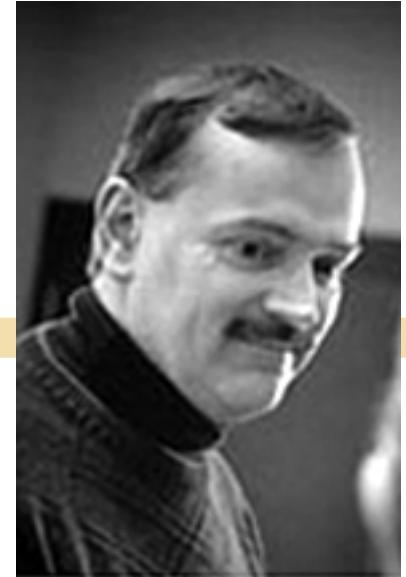
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## Community Development Process and Evaluation of the Series

**October 31 and November 8**

**1:30 to 3 p.m. CST**

The ability to know how to organize and mobilize resources for action, as well as possible barriers, is necessary in developing programs that are meaningful and effective.



Tim Borich

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# Certificate of Completion

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A *Certificate of Completion* will be given to those who successfully complete at least six of seven sessions.

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# Archives

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