

From our Advisors:



Brenda Bishop, EANM Co-Advisor:

As I went home for lunch today, I noticed the trees are already budding. They are getting ready for spring and new growth. As I sat down to write this article, I remembered the trees and how they could be similar to EANM. As an organization have we been stuck in Winter? Is it time for us to start to bud and be ready for new growth?

In January, Extension Faculty, spend three days learning how to evaluate programs and write impact statements. Our Extension staff is stretched and we are having to make tough decisions about where we allocate our time. Will we be using our time working with EANM or will we use those valuable hours towards another program?

Consider this question, "What is the impact EANM has on its members or our communities?" Would EANM be missed if we went away? I feel that in many communities EANM would be missed. Is your community one of those?

Mid-year Board gives us a perfect opportunity to explore new directions and prepare to sprout as an organization. I encourage each county to send a representative or two to mid-year board. This helps your county understand what is happening at the state level and why decisions are made in the manner they are. You can share your perspective and help us move forward.

I am looking forward to our organization breaking out of Winter and moving into Spring. See you all in March.

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Priscilla Bloomquist, Ph.D.
EANM Co-Advisor:

It was a pleasure having the opportunity to meet those who attended the November meeting in Silver City. I want to recognize the organizing committee for the fine job they did preparing for and hosting the meeting. Since that time, we've been working on a variety of initiatives here including: the 2018 CES In-Service

Training, launching a search for a new Specialist and the development of a new advisory council.

CES In-Service training took place on campus in January. This year's event had a different focus. Rather than providing content area updates, the focus was on helping agents function more efficiently and effectively by developing the knowledge and skills necessary for establishing/managing advisory committees, conducting community needs assessments, evaluating programs and preparing impact statements. Dr. Bryce Jorgenson, Personal and Family Finance Specialist, played a pivotal role on the organizing committee and was a key workshop facilitator.

The search for a Family Life and Child Development Specialist is well underway. This key position has been vacant since the departure of Dr. Lisa Shields. The application period closed on February 12th and now the committee is actively reviewing a strong pool of applicants. It's our hope that we will have a new specialist in place by this summer.

Understanding the importance of improving communication between the counties and the state specialists, we are in the process of creating an EFCS Advisory Council composed of county agents and campus-based specialists. Dr. Sonja Koukal has been charged with getting this group off the ground and will be hosting the first meeting on campus in April. The completion of a county agent needs assessment will be among the first projects undertaken.

Thank you for what you do to support our continued efforts to enhance the quality of life for the individuals, families and communities of New Mexico.

