

Kari (Fruechte) O'Neill
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SKILLS Ability to engage diverse audiences and people of all ages in learning.
Credibility in areas of youth, family and community development.
Familiarity of agriculture, geographic region and its people.

EDUCATION University of Minnesota Duluth (1998-2000)
Masters of Education (3.9 GPA)
Mankato State University (1990-92)
B.S. Home Economics Education (4.0 GPA)
Sinte Gleska College, Mission, SD (1983)
Six credits including Lakota Thought & Philosophy (4.0 GPA)
South Dakota State University (1980-83)
Home Economics Education major (3.49 GPA)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

SDSU Extension Field Specialist – Community Development 10/11 – Present

Work with rural communities across the state on issues they identify to improve their quality of life.

- Develop and teach classes on leadership, facilitation, and subject-specific areas.
- Work with organizations on strategic planning and development.
- Assist communities in organizing groups, planning projects and analyzing their environment.
- Provide knowledge and coaching on current issues in community life.
- Build partnerships with other community development organizations and other state Extension services to provide community support.
- Present current information and education to Extension staff and administration.

SDSU Extension Associate – Community Development 7/04-10/11

Project Director for Horizons grant through Northwest Area Foundation; serving forty- three rural South Dakota communities

- Provide leadership to seven Community Coaches as part of the state team.
- Build and maintain partnerships with other South Dakota and regional entities involved with community development efforts.
- Work with grant budget of over \$1.5 million.
- Maintain relationship with grantor, including segment reports, teleconferences and regional meetings.
- Coordinate training and guidelines for community members and coaches.
- Evaluate progress through gathering community feedback and reporting to stakeholders

SDSU Extension Associate - CHARACTER COUNTS!sm Project Leader 3/02 –7/06

Administrative duties of providing statewide leadership to the CHARACTER COUNTS! project, a segment of SD 4-H/Youth Development.

- Supervise three regional coordinators, and work closely with Extension educators and administrators in outreach education to counties and communities.

- Develop new resources, training and curriculum to target specific audiences with character education.
- Assess needs and administer survey instruments to further guide and evaluate project.
- Public relations work throughout the state creating awareness and identity of project.
- Grant searches and writing to secure continued funding of project.

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

- Kui-Liang, C., Monnens, D., O'Neill, K., "Economic Impact Study of South Dakota's Local Food System," – survey study of southeastern South Dakota – 2014.
- UNL, SDSU, NDSU – NRI grant on marketing rural communities to newcomers. Worked with Hot Springs in researching newcomers, labor vacancies, and marketing. Fourteen Extension faculty in Extension developed a guidebook for rural communities, gave presentations and published articles.

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS AWARDED

- O'Neill, K, Trautman, K, Sherin, K, Schlechter, P, Thares, P, Bush Foundation Ecosystem Grant, 2016 – 2018, \$200,000.
- O'Neill, K, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA Local Foods Promotion Program – "Launching Dakota Fresh Food Hub," 2015 – 2017, \$100,000.
- O'Neill, K., Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA Local Foods Promotion Program – "Planning for a Potential Food Hub in Southeastern South Dakota," 2013-2014, \$25,000.
- O'Neill, K., Zdorovtsov, C., Rural Business Opportunity Grant, USDA – "Developing Strategies to Build Capacity in South Dakota's Local Food System," 2012 -2013.
- Fruechte, K., Trautman, K., USDA Rural Community Development Initiative Grant – targeted program support for further education in Horizons alumni communities, 2009 – 2012, \$251,700.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- SD Women in Leadership Class, Black Hills State University Center for Entrepreneurial Opportunity (2014)
- Nat'l. Association of Community Development Extension Professionals Conference (2007, 2008 presenter, 2010 presenter, 2011, 2012 presenter, 2014, 15, 16 presenter)
- Rural Futures Initiative Conference – UNL (2013, 2014 Poster session)
- Stronger Economies Together training – Southern Rural Development Center (2012)
- Marketing for the Ag Entrepreneur – University of Nebraska – Lincoln (2010-11)
- SD Agricultural and Rural Leadership class (2005-06). *Current alumni.*

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Materials Developed – Community Development:

- O'Neill, K, Dakota Fresh Promotional Videos: <https://youtu.be/BxYkLzcCK-Y> and <https://youtu.be/wQXq0zjFB7E>
- O'Neill, K., Zdorovtsov, C., "Using Collective Impact to Build a Local Foods System," – eXtension Community of Practice on *Community and Local Food Systems* – 2014
- Schlechter, P., O'Neill, K., "Voices of the Next Generation: Young Entrepreneurs," – worked with video crew at SDSU to produce YouTube video series with panel of entrepreneurs – 2014.
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLlIdDb7IZYqJfGEavl5sy0WzZtdCJs1XF>
- O'Neill, K., "Using Appreciative Inquiry in Strategic Planning," –organizations – 2014.
- Bruns, J., Burkhart-Kriesel, C., O'Neill, K., Schlechter, P., "Marketing Hometown America" - community discussion guide – 2013.
- O'Neill, K., "Marketing Your Food Products," – food entrepreneur classes – 2012-14.

- Zdorovtsov, C., O'Neill, K., "Diggin' in the Dirt, Community Style," – guide to community gardening – updated 2013.
- Fruechte, K., "Youth Facilitation Training" – curriculum teaching youth to lead discussions on issues – 2011.
- Fruechte, K., "First Steps to Business Planning" – analysis of benefits & costs – 2011.