

Northeast News

A UF/IFAS Extension District Newsletter

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FEATURE Story

Getting it Right with 4-H! "A fail does not make you a failure!"

Marnie Ward. Ph.D.

UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County 4-H Youth Development Agent I mlward@ufl.edu

Wise words from a 12-year old camper at one of our 4-H STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) summer programs. Recognizing that the experience of trying and failing is a powerful tool in learning. UF/IFAS Extension Florida 4-H Youth Development Program Citrus County offers parents and families

safe-environments for youth to try new ideas. They learn by not "getting it right" the first time, sometimes not even the second or third time. Youth discover that failing is a part of learning.

At the 4-H LEGO Robotics STEM camp youth practiced team building, and problem solving, while learning essential life skills. In a real-world scenario, campers practiced their talents as engineers and designers. Teams designed, built and tested a vehicle to transport an object "pay-load" and deliver it to a

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February - April 2020

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Seek First to Understand



































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Getting it Right with 4-H! "A fail does not make you a failure!"...continued from previous page

specific target. Campers modified paper cups to travel down fishing line and then remotely release a marble onto a paper target. Building supplies included a paper clip, a paper cup, a marble, tape, and an index card. Through the engineering design process, team members brainstormed potential designs and built prototypes of the vehicle. Testing the prototypes revealed design flaws and inspired youth to revise and adapt their prototype designs.

The testing area, aka launch pad, included a fishing line extended from a railing to a chair with a target on the

ground at the bottom. Campers attached their vehicle to the fishing line using a paper clip. Releasing the vehicles at the top of the line, each camper activated their remote release by pulling a string they had attached to the cup. This released the marble to strike the target.

At first, the vehicles were basic and plain, with little attention to detail. Tweaking and modifying design elements, these budding designers took turns in the launch zone. They varied the construction of the remote release and re-designed the inner structure of

the vehicle. Launching vehicles and remotely releasing objects, they narrowed the distance to the target while modifying and tweaking their designs.

These teams used "fails" to frame their design and construct their built vehicle, so that ultimately it transported the payload, and released it on target. Too often, the measure of success is getting it "right". These campers practiced valuing the learning gained from the fails. Citrus County 4-H builds environments that support and encourage youth as they fail, as they learn, and as they celebrate both.

Information TECHNOLOGIES

Easy Blog Featured Images

Alicia Halbritter

UF/IFAS Extension Baker County Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent AliciaH1221@ufl.edu

Are you having trouble creating blog featured images? Here is an easy way to create perfectly sized images for blogs without the hassle!

Step 1: Create a Canva account or login to your existing account at Canva.com

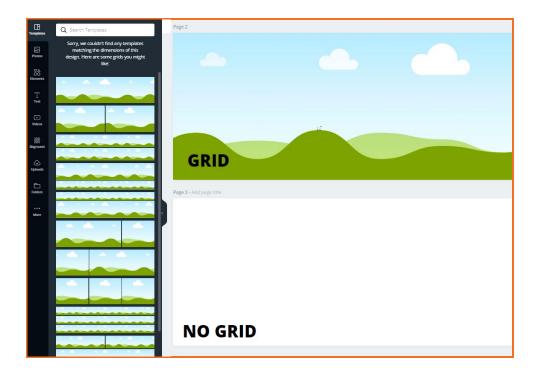
Step 2: Choose 'Create A Design' and then 'Custom Dimensions'

Step 3: Enter the Featured Image Size of 1338 x 357 pixels.

This should create a new design that is exactly the correct dimensions for a blog featured image. From here you can upload your own photos to use, IFAS photos, Canva photos, or other royalty free photo options.

Once you are finished with your photo selection, insert it into the design using a grid. This 'grid' template will allow you to insert an image and it will automatically fill the entire 1338 x 357 page. Double click on the image to move it up/down or side to side if it is large enough in order to manipulate which part of the image is visible.

Download the image as a png or jpeg, upload to the blog media folder and you have an easy made featured image! This design size will stay in the Canva account you have created. For future blog images, simply change the photo in the grid and download! Feel free to contact me with questions regarding Canva!



From the **DISTRICT DIRECTOR**



NE District faculty make up is rapidly changing

Altum

Jessica

EXT AGENT I

Janney

Heather

EXT AGENT II

Fifty-one percent of the district has less than 5 years of experience in Extension and 61% of the NE District agents have not yet achieved PS. What does this mean to each of us?

The worse thing we do in Florida Extension is that we hire new agents all the time. Experienced agents retire – and take with them a wealth of experience, we spend countless hours in drafting position descriptions, screening, and interviewing. When

Parks

Warren

Harlow

Wiggins

Saft

Houghton

Natasha

Mark

Erin

Lori

Carolyn

Holly

EXT AGENT III

we can't find the right candidate, we start over, and we have to on-board those new professionals. Vacancies create uncertainty and transition periods.

The best thing we do in Florida Extension is that we hire new agents all the time. We hire new talents, new ideas, new expectations. We hire professionals who starting, restarting, or continuing their careers. We have hope!

continued on next page

Fig 1. Distribution of Extension faculty in the NE District by rank and permanent status (on Jan. 9, 2020)

		Jackson	Shawn
		Kerr	Chris
		Ellison	Stacey
		Dacey	Justina
Carter	Grace	Korus	Kevin
Dossin	Cassidy	Clem	Taylor
Willis	Sylvia	Griffin	Kimiko
Darling	Courtney	Broughton	Rhoda
Karsh	Ted	Blanco	Victor
Canal	Luara	Barry	Savanna
Miller	Luke	Barrett	Charles
Straughter	D'Alicia	Athearn	Kevin
Ward	Marnie	Sheldon	Annie
Olson	Matthew	Sanchez	Tatiana
Morgan	Amanda	Moore	Beth
Miller	Luke	Michelon Toledo	Izabella
Irvine	Kelsey	Mendoza Perez	Genevieve
Hobbs	Wayne	Tomlinson	A. Paulette
Haupt	Kelsey	Spann	Shaina
Harlow	Luke	Wynn	Keith
Halbritter	Alicia	Vann	Chris
Ellis	Sarah	Thomas	Melanie
Straughter	D'Alicia	Tharpe	Abbey
Corbitt	Haile	Nistler	David
Cooper	Clay	Conner	Stephanie
Capasso	Jay	Lamborn	Alicia
Cant (Griffin)	Jane	Figart	Larry
Kerr	Beth	Fenneman	Dan

Permanent Status Accruing

Permanent Status

-			
Sturmer	Leslie		
Sanders	Cynthia		
McAlpine	Margaret		
Jordi	Весса		
Jennings	Ed		
Jarvis	BJ		
Hochmuth	Bob		
Hicks	Gregory		
Toelle	Andy		
Toelle	Stephanie		
Bickers Maddox	Martha		
Allen	Katherine		
EXT AGENT IV			

Don't dis my ability...continued from page 3

So, how much hiring have we done lately in the Northeast District? In 2019, we hired 12 new agents – and 3 others changed counties. This is encouraging, although we still have 6 positions unfilled – and it is only February! Six agents in the NE District participated in the retirement incenting offered by IFAS two years ago and this had a domino effect.

Beyond the numbers, there are two main consequences to all of us.

First, most agents in the NE district have less than 5 years of experience in Florida Extension (Fig. 1). To the 12 new hires of 2019, we still have 7 agents hired in 2018, 5 in 2017, and 11 in 2016 and 2 in 2015. Simply put, 37 agents (out of 73 Extension positions currently filled in the NE District) have less than 5 years of experience. This represents 51% of the district. Consequence 1, we need to redefine what a "senior" agent is. If you have been in your job for more than 5 years, you are a senior agent! Do you consider yourself a senior agent?

Second, most agents in the NE District do not have Permanent Status (44 out of 72). Hence, consequence 2, we need to provide guidance, mentoring, and support to a lot of new agents. We currently have 25 agents I, 18 agent II, and 1 agent III that are permanent status accruing. This means that 61% of the NE District agents have not yet achieved PS. This means that mentoring is becoming even more important.

This is an exciting time! We have a talented and diverse faculty. Make sure you know all your fellow agents in the district, and ask how you can help them!

Are you writing effective emails?

Depending on the moment, emails can be a blessing or a curse in our Extension world. Of course, we love how they make communication easy, a-synchronous, leave a "paper" trail, and allow us to inform and keep in the loop a bunch of people at the same time. On the other hand, we have a passionate hate for the 50, 100, 200, 500? emails we receive each day. Receiving them is one thing. The challenge is that the authors expect us to read them – and (silly them) to remember their content and nuances next time we meet. How can we write emails that are effective? Effective as in short, clear and actionable. All parts of the email deserve attention. Here are a few tips:

- Carefully establish the list of recipients. Who really needs to know, respond, or do something related to the topic of this email?
- Beware of email lists. While they are very convenient in preventing us from having to type a bunch of names, we really do not always know who is included in that list.
- Be conservative in determining who needs to be copied. Some email authors love to include a bunch of people on this line. Attention must also be given to the interpretations when bosses and unknown names are included on this list.
- Pick a title that conveys the meaning. This line is often neglected, yet, it is the first contact your audience has with your message. Also, when responding, do not alter the title as it will make it more difficult to locate strings the search feature
- Keep the unity of the topic. This is self-explanatory. Unless the purpose of the email is to present a status of different projects, issues or their component, assign one topic to one email. If the email calls for an action, response or follow up, make it clear to the recipient. The worse feeling a recipient has after reading an email is "so what does he/she wants me to do with this?"

- Add a date of time by which you expect a response. This is also self-explanatory. Also use wording that allows you to proceed without a response if the recipient does not respond by the said date. Think about sentences like "Please let me know what you think" and "If you have thoughts and concerns, let me know by Friday". In the first example, you cannot proceed without a response. In the second one, you make it clear to the recipient that he/she has a window to respond, after which you will proceed without a response.
- Stick to facts and response sought.

 Present concepts and facts in a logical order. A good e-mail has 2-3 paragraphs of 2-3 lines each.

 Keep it short.
- When expressing feelings, talk about your emotions in a non-emotional style. Avoid colors, bold or caps when trying to convey a feeling. When upset, instead of "WHAT THE H*** WERE YOU THINKING?" use "I felt very angry after receiving your last email dated...."
- Can your email pass the "Gainesville Sun" test? While much can be said about what NOT to include in an email, use this simple test to determine appropriateness and professionalism. If you cannot afford to see this message printed on the front page of the Gainesville Sun the next day, then modify before sending.

 Happy emails!

How Does the UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA Work?

How can I use my IICS-archived picture in the IFAS Directory?

Jiannong Xin, Ph.D.UF/IFAS Office of Information Technology,
Associate Director

Note that if you have multiple photos and forgot when it was taken, right click on the picture and select "file info".

Step 1. Download photo from IFAS
Communications photo gallery.
Go to http://photos.ifas.ufl.edu.
Sign in with your Gatorlink
account, search your agent's
name and download the photo.

Step 2. Upload your photo to the IFAS Director.

Go to https://directory.ifas.ufl.edu/mydirectory.

Sign in and click on "Update My Profile Photo"

Let's Meet Some Agents: **NEW**

Heather Janney

UF/IFAS Extension Columbia County CED/4-H hfutch@ufl.edu



Grace Carter
UF/IFAS Extension Duval County
4-H Agent
grace.carter@ufl.edu

I'm Grace Carter, the new 4-H Agent in Duval County. Since graduating high school, I've had the opportunity to serve in a variety of 4-H programs around the state. But my 4-H experience began in Jacksonville, and I'm excited to be back in my home county.

As a 4-H youth, I was part of many 4-H projects and was active on the county, district and state level.

After I finished school, I thought my 4-H experience was over. But when I needed a summer job, I applied to serve as Florida 4-H Camp Staff. During my undergraduate studies, I spent four summers working at Camp Cherry Lake. Later, while working on my Master of Public Administration at UNF, the Leadership/Citizenship Coordinator position opened at the State 4-H Office. I worked at the State Office in Gainesville from 2015 through 2019 when the opportunity opened to move back to Jacksonville.

As part of the Duval 4-H Team, I will be working with school enrichment, horse, livestock, camping, and communications programs.



Andy Toelle, Ph.D

UF/IFAS Extension Northeast District 4-H RSA aeto1@ufl.edu

Hello everyone! I am Andy Toelle the new 4-H RSA for the Northeast district. I have been a long time 4-H agent, starting my career in Bonneville county, ID. I came to Florida and have served in Nassau, St Johns, and Duval counties. I graduated from Auburn with a BA in Psychology and an MS in Family and Child Development. I recently completed my PhD in

leadership from the AEC department here at UF. I have a passion for helping new agents thrive in their new positions. Early on, I plan to visit each 4-H agent in the district and get to know the 4-H agents and their programming. My goal is to support the success of 4-H agents in the district and across Florida. I am excited to be in this new role!

SUCCESS Stories

Fear of Falling

Meg McAlpine

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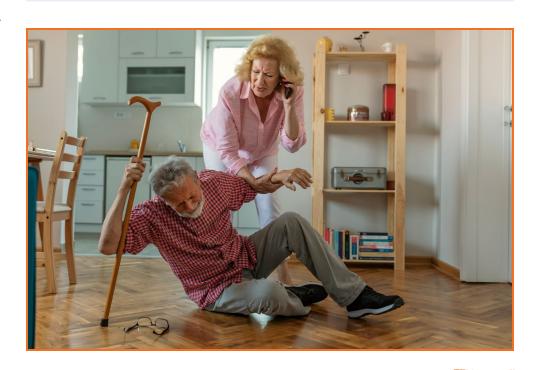
Falling can happen to anyone. The risk of falling increases for adults as they become older. In the United States an older adult (65 years of age and older) falls every second. One out of four older adults will fall each year, making falls a public health concern. Falls are the leading cause of injury and injury-related deaths for this age group. How many of you know someone who is 65 years or older? How many of you are concerned about how a fall could impact their quality of life?

To address this public health concern, 2 fall prevention workshops were provided to adults at the local public library. Audiences consisted of caregivers, older adults, and adults with ambulatory concerns. A total of 21 Participants learned how to "fall-proof" their homes, what to do when they fall, how to get up after fall, and how to safely get out of bed.

All participants reported they increased their knowledge in one or more of the following areas: how falls occur; how to prevent falls; and what to do if they fall. A well-known community leader, the medical director of the Nassau County Health Department, participated in a fall prevention workshop with her 85-year-old mother. She reported that as a result of their participation they were able to discuss and decide together on what to change in her mother's house in order to make it safer. Other participants reported feeling impowered and less fearful of falling. All participants planned to make changes including improved lighting, removal of loose rugs and adding grip rails in their bathrooms.

What to Do If You Fall

- 1. Whether you are at home or somewhere else, a sudden fall can be startling and upsetting. If you do fall, stay as calm as possible.
- Take several deep breaths to try to relax. Remain still on the floor or ground for a few moments. This will help you get over the shock of falling.
- 3. Decide if you are hurt before getting up. Getting up too quickly or in the wrong way could make an injury worse.
- 4. If you think you can get up safely without help, roll over onto your side. Rest again while your body and blood pressure adjust. Slowly get up on your hands and knees, and crawl to a sturdy chair.
- 5. Put your hands on the chair seat and slide one foot forward so that it is flat on the floor. Keep the other leg bent so the knee is on the floor. From this kneeling position, slowly rise and turn your body to sit in the chair.
- 6. If you are hurt or cannot get up on your own, ask someone for help or call 911. If you are alone, try to get into a comfortable position and wait for help to arrive.
- 7. Carrying a mobile or portable phone with you as you move about your house could make it easier to call someone if you need assistance. An emergency response system, which lets you push a button on a special necklace or bracelet to call for help, is another option.



DISTRICT Life

Promoting National 4-H Week and Building a Sense of Belonging through Hay

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Want to find a fun, creative way to bring together your program participants while promoting National 4-H Week? Why not try hosting a hay bale contest or something similar?

The foundation of the 4-H youth development program is based on the 4-H essential elements - belonging, mastery, independence & generosity. While young people participating in 4-H gain valuable life skills, a sense of belonging is the first element that must be met before they can begin to gain these skills. Belonging does not just happen, it's created. A hay bale contest, orchestrated to coincide with National 4-H Week, was developed to bring community, in-school and after-school clubs together to celebrate their shared commitment to 4-H and to highlight the remarkable 4-H youth in our local communities who work each day to make a positive impact on those around them.

All of the 4-H clubs in the county were encouraged to participate in the hay bale decorating contest. Each club that participated was given three full days at the beginning of National 4-H Week to complete their designs with the winning design announced at the end of the week at the Levy County 4-H Open House. Community leaders and Friends of 4-H served as judges along with input from Facebook indicating the entry with the most Likes, Shares, and Reach during the week-long contest. Judges were selecting the top design based on eye appeal, construction, use of materials, creativity, and promotion of 4-H. The hay bales were generously donated and placed in front the Levy County Extension Office by two local



businesses who are strong supporters of the local 4-H program.

Over 70% (n=8) of clubs within the county participated in the event. Along with strong involvement from the 4-H community, the contest reached an audience of 21,376 through the social media campaign on Facebook. The top design was submitted to compete at the Florida State Fair's hay bale decorating contest where they were awarded second place.

What was not quantified was the sense of enthusiasm shared by the 4- H volunteers and families along with the community. As one club leader exclaimed, "My kids and I are so excited, they can't wait to show off their design!". Community is built and strengthened through fun, exciting contests similar to the hay bale contest. Likewise, youth and volunteers are still engaged in experiential learning and gaining life skills without realizing it.

Results of the Levy County 4-H Hay Bale Decorating Contest

Entry #	Judge's Scores	# of Likes	# of Shares	Audience Reached
1	31	128	48	4157
2	26	22	8	866
3	27	6	1	273
4	34	103	95	5816
5	30	66	37	2193
6	28	43	13	1528
7	37	203	96	5190
8	31	19	16	1353
Social Med	lia Campaign Totals:	590	314	21376

^{*}The top three designs were selected based on the judge's scores followed by the overall performance of the social media post.

What's **WORKING**?

Building institutional partnerships for Conservation

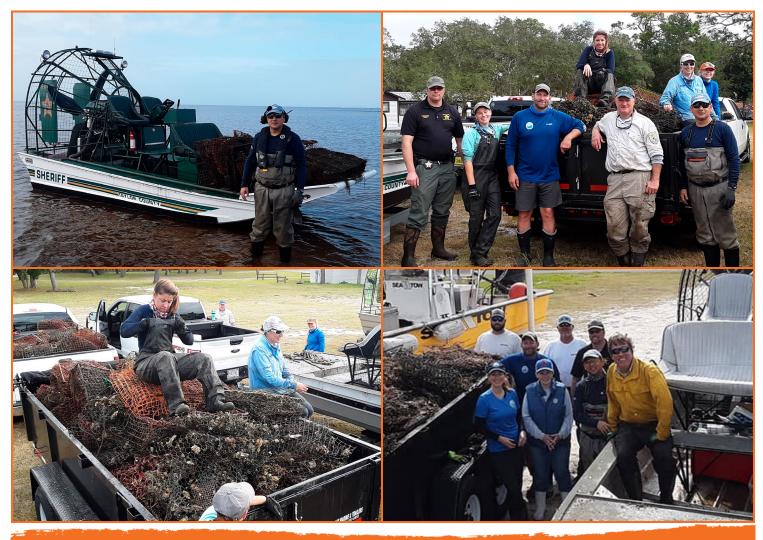
Victor Blanco

UF/IFAS Extension Taylor County Marine Extension Agent II victorblancomar@ufl.edu

Extension is not only about reaching out to our clientele for education focus on creating awareness, knowledge gain and behavior change to generate a long-term impact of our programs. In the process one of the main and key aspects is building partnership, with local Community-Based Organization (CBO), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO), businesses and especially with public organizations at the National,

State, regional or local level. Despite conservation of our natural resources has become a "trend" in society, there is a real need to promote actions that address some of the direct and indirect effects that human activities have over coastal ecosystems and their resources. Under the leadership of the Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), on a yearly basis, different organizations have partnered to participate in a derelict crab traps clean-up activity on Deadman's Bay, at the mouth of Steinhatchee river, on Taylor and Dixie counties. The activity involves Florida Sea Grant and UF/IFAS Extension, the Nature Coast Biological Station (NCBS), the US Fish and Wildlife

Service (USFWS), the US Geological Service (USGS) and the Taylor County Sheriff Office. Between January and February 2020 two activities were held removing around 300 derelict traps weighing over 4,500 lbs. Taylor County Extension estimates that at least 1,000 traps are left in the water every year and become derelict, which have an impact on the ecosystem and the coastal resources as they become ghost fishing gear, that traps and kill fish. These activities align with UF/IFAS Extension mission and have a positive impact on the environment and in the perception of residents and visitors on our institutions and the health of our coastal areas.



What's WORKING?...continued

Incorporating evidencebased practices for children and youth with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) in Family Nutrition Program educational sessions

Annie Sheldon

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Youth with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) are seen to be at greater risk of obesity due to lower levels of physical activity, behavioral issues, medication, and related health conditions. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services early life intervention is one of the most effective ways to improve physical and psychological health in this population. Children and youth with ASD characteristically demonstrate deficits in basic

functioning, such as social interaction, communication, learning, and behavior. This presents challenges to educators especially Family Nutrition Program Assistants providing nutrition education in the elementary classroom setting.

Youth Understanding MyPlate (YUM) curriculum was selected as the primary nutrition education program to be delivered to six pre-k through 5th grade special education classrooms at Fleming Island Elementary School in Clay County. The classrooms were comprised of primarily ASD students ranging from non-verbal to high functioning levels. Six 30-minute lessons were taught weekly by the FNP Program Assistant with the hands-on support of classroom teachers and aides. Each lesson incorporated the reading of a book, hands on activity, and healthy recipe tasting. Evidence-based modifications including prompting, reinforcement,

and the use of picture exchange commutation system (PECS) were used in the delivery of the lesson content (Odom et al, 2010).

Qualitative data was collected from classroom teachers at post using the FNP teacher survey in addition to continuous feedback received throughout the duration of the six-week program. Teachers were enthusiastic about the success of the program and thankful for the willingness of an outside organization to work with their students. Teachers reported that students were more willing to try new foods as a result of the program and several parents requested copies of the recipes that were well received by their children to incorporate at home. One teacher reported that as result of the dairy lesson a student asked to try milk for the first time during the lesson and is now drinking milk regularly.

PROFESSIONAL Development

Seek First to Understand

Beth Kerr

UF/IFAS Extension Hamilton County 4-H/FCS Extension Agent

Inspired by the following TED talk: Thanks for the Feedback: Shelia Heen

When you hear "feedback," do your stomach muscles tighten and your jaws clench? Feedback is frequently associated with the performance reviews that employees endure, often dodging it throughout the remainder of the year. Givers and receivers of this type of feedback often dread the conversations because they can be uncomfortable for both.

Stop, and think about it. We receive feedback every day from a wide range

TED RADIO HOUR

of sources. When we look in a mirror, we receive feedback about our appearance. Do we look like we are meeting a client or raking leaves? When a thank you note arrives in our inbox, it is feedback that our efforts (or gift) was appreciated. Our co-worker's observation about our display table in the conference room counts as feedback.

I need Feedback!

There are three types of feedback: appreciation, coaching, and evaluation. Appreciation tells us that we matter. It is a motivator. Appreciation reinforces that we are part of the team, belong to the office culture, and that we have value. We like appreciation! Coaching

is the type of feedback that helps us improve. It provides the input that moves us toward learning and professional growth. Evaluation is a ranking, or a rating, based on past performance. So, appreciation impacts the present, coaching influences the future, and the evaluation reflects on the past.

When we seek feedback, we must determine what we really need from our coworkers, CED, DED or RSA. Appreciation is important to employee engagement and on-the-job satisfaction. Are we needing recognition for our efforts? Coaching provides a review of our progress with suggestions for improvement. Are we wanting critique and guidance to improve our impact and help us grow professionally? Evaluation lets us know

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Seek First to Understand...continued from previous page

how we compare to our peers. Are we wanting a rating to provide us with a label or score to bolster our sense of worth or to provide a measurement for future growth?

We need all three!

Receiving Feedback

Most institutions and corporations have focused on professional development aimed at *giving feedback*. However, communication requires both a messenger and a receiver. It is the receiver who is in charge of the feedback exchange. The receiver also owns the action that results from feedback. The choice belongs to the receiver. Will you receive,

reject, or ignore feedback? How will you respond emotionally?

How you receive the feedback will depend on your personal stake in the program, your identity and sensitivities, and how you feel about the giver. We may see ourselves and our performance as *on target*, but others around us may see the need for change. Learning to receive feedback is key to leadership.

Receiving feedback, with grace, is a skill that develops over time. Receiving feedback well is not a promise to adopt all feedback. There may be instances when feedback is wrong, and you gracefully receive it and decide to take

no action. Being able to identify the type of feedback needed, and knowing how to respond to it, will make it easier to receive. When you invite and receive constructive feedback and act on it, you will accelerate personal and professional growth.

Part 2 will focus on Rejecting Feedback & Receiving Feedback with Grace. It will be available in the next NE District Newsletter

To learn more about this TED talk and to view others, please visit https://www.ted.com

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