2015 NATIONAL COORDINATOR’S CONFERENCE
EXPANDED FOOD AND NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM (EFNEP)

Inspiring Educator Performance

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Test Ways To Reach Limited-Resource Families
EFNEP Educators

Invaluable To Success of Pilot Project
EFNEP Educators

50 Years of Reaching and Teaching
September 25, 2014

Dear County Extension Coordinator:

With excitement, the state staff team of the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System designates October as “EFNEP Educator Appreciation Month”. The EFNEP State staff team has set aside this month to remind educators that their commitment and dedication to EFNEP is appreciated.

As you know, EFNEP educators sometimes encounter rejection, little interest, and very few thank yous from clientele. Amid the economic downturn, single parent homes, an alarming obesity rate and the like, the call to help the limited-resource client is even greater. That’s why it is only fitting that we set aside this time to express appreciation. The positive attitudes, warm relationships, and excellent teaching by EFNEP educators helps limited-resource families incorporate nutrition education strategies to make dietary gains, combat obesity, and use resources wisely. Without EFNEP education, many limited-resource families would not be able to identify ways to feed themselves and their families better. We applaud their efforts to recruit, enroll, and teach eligible families and extend wishes for continued success.

Enclosed is an Appreciation Packet for the EFNEP educator housed in your respective county. As you prepare for your Monday morning office conferences in October, we ask that you make presentations from the Appreciation Packet, as noted below, where possible.

*Monday, October 6, 2014
Present EFNEP Thank You Card
(The EFNEP Thank You Card, signed by members of the state staff team, expresses gratitude to the EFNEP educator for contributions made to EFNEP.)

*Monday, October 13, 2014
Present EFNEP Logo Shirt

Directions For Supervisors
2014 Educator Appreciation Month Cutline

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) is an integral part of the Family and Consumer Sciences Unit of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. This year, EFNEP celebrates 50 years of programmatic success in Alabama, and proclaims October as “EFNEP Educator Appreciation Month”. EFNEP Educators, the heartbeat of the program, teach limited-resource individuals how to improve their dietary practices and become more effective managers of available resources. Pictured above, on left or right, _____________, County Extension Coordinator, _____________ County, recognizes ______________________, EFNEP Educator, for her efforts to teach, help, and serve families in _________________ County.
Appreciation Packet

To make food choices like this, talk to an EFNEP educator!

Take a Hand, Open a Mind, and Touch a Heart!

Exceptional educators of the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program are a cause for celebration!

EFNEP Creed

As an extension educator in the EFNEP program...

I believe that good nutrition education is a human right.

I believe that all families should have access to nutritional information.

I believe that nutrition education should be part of every child's education.

I believe that nutrition education should be fun and engaging.

I believe that everyone can make healthy choices.

I believe that we can all help to make our communities healthier.

EFNEP 50

Extension 50

Four Unique Components
EFNEP Thank You Card

An Expression of Gratitude
EFNEP Logo Shirt

Easy Staff Identification
EFNEP Banner

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EFNEP Educators...

Take a Hand, Open a Mind, and Touch a Heart!

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An Attention-Grabber
EFNEP Creed

Guiding Principles and Beliefs
The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program Turns 50!

Imagine this. For six weeks, an educator, usually a head of household, works directly with another head of household to demonstrate ways to make more informed choices on feeding themselves and their family. The educator meets with the head of household in the home, at a worksite, or maybe even at a church. The educator is warm, caring, and works to build strong ties and relationships. After all, the person she is teaching is a part of her community and lives in her county. Look closely. The educator's arms are loaded with visuals, tasting experiences or recipe ingredients, Extension publications, lesson reinforcements, and a research-based curriculum. For approximately 45 minutes, the educator will address the benefits of healthy eating, small foods eaten, sample a recipe, and share the experiences. Because of the time spent together, this head of household, through a hands-on approach, learns...
I'm glad that we have a month to recognize EFNEP and the work we do in the counties. Our programs make a difference in the community and the lives of our clients (friends). . . .
EFNEP Educator Appreciation Month was genuinely appreciated. As an EFNEP educator, I feel that it was a great honor to be recognized for a job which seems like a hobby. While it is the principle responsibility of my job to go out and teach nutrition education, I feel that it is more like having a conversation rather than a class session.
One Way To Inspire Educator Performance