Documenting and Communicating the Scholarly Work of Academic Staff in Cooperative Extension
Cooperative Extension

* A division of UW-Extension
* 5 Academic Departments
* “Bringing the resources of the University to the people where they live and work.”
If internal and external stakeholders view community-based research, education, and outreach scholarship as being an integral component of our niche, then this concept must become an integrated part of the everyday work and communication of all UWEX-CE faculty and staff. Until we position all staff (not only faculty) to examine and document the characteristics of high quality, evidence and research-based work, an understanding of our identity and niche within the University of Wisconsin-System and with the people we serve will not be achieved.

(Strategic Planning Steering Committee, 2009)
Challenges

- Unclear on what scholarship is
- Few avenues for peer review
- Some job descriptions preclude scholarly work
Based on the work of Ernest Boyer, “Scholarship Reconsidered.”
Creative Intellectual Work

- Developing new knowledge and/or
- Incorporating creative methods for applying/sharing or presenting knowledge
- Based on needs identification
Reviewed By Peers

- Independent evaluation of our work by others in the same academic discipline, but not collaborators on the project
* Shared and findable such as through:
  * Presentation
  * Publication
  * Web sites
  * Sharing with colleagues in other ways
Persistently used
Made an impact
Appreciated

By...
- Peers
- Public
- Students
Getting the Message Out

- “White Paper” on scholarship (2009)
- Presentation at All Staff conference (2010)
- Workshops at district meetings/program area meetings
- Formation of Scholarship Action Team (2011)
We still don’t have the answers.
Focus Group Questions

- How do you define scholarly work?
- Was it communicated to you formally or informally?
- Is it an expectation of your position?
- Are you evaluated on it?
Focus Group Questions

* What kind of intellectual work do you do?
* What intellectual work would you like to do?
* What prevents you from doing it?
* What supports could be put into place to help you do it?
* What would you identify as incentives for intellectual work?
Focus Group Questions

* How do you decide what the quality and usefulness of your intellectual work is?
* Do you invite others to help you determine that?
* If so, how and if not, why not?
* How do you define peer review?
In what ways do you share your intellectual work?
If you don’t share it, how would you like to share it?