

impact

University of Idaho Extension programs that are making a difference in Idaho.

Extension professionals making a broader impact through U and I Together series

AT A GLANCE

The U and I Together series increased the accessibility and visibility of University of Idaho Extension programs in Valley County attracting new audiences with statewide reach.

The Situation

In April 2021, a regional library association hosted a one-day virtual conference, inviting University of Idaho Extension educators in southern Idaho to present on potential partnership opportunities. During this presentation, library personnel shared a gap in educational programming aimed at the entire family unit. As COVID-19 limitations continued, libraries were not following universal procedures regarding their programming for clientele. With UI Extension educators continually adapting content for virtual implementation, a team identified this opportunity to develop specific content that could be delivered in an online format suitable for all families and libraries regardless of current protocol.

Our Response

UI Extension, Valley County joined efforts to provide programming for the entire family unit and developed five programs including: 1) Get Outdoors — Explore Valley County; 2) Energy Detectives; 3) Design your Community; 4) Communication, Coding and Cooking; and 5) DIY Last Minute Halloween Costumes.

Live participants from around the state viewed these virtual programs expanding the reach of rural com-



Design Your Community! - U and I Together Series

The series highlighted all types of UI Extension programs for new audiences while expanding rural educators reach.

munity educators throughout the state. The U and I Together series were recorded, and the videos were branded and featured all types of UI Extension programs. The content was made available post-event on YouTube. The statewide coordination of UI Extension content delivered asynchronously via YouTube was rare, pre-COVID. This type of viewing option has made UI Extension content available to a broader audience and has increased measurable indirect contacts for UI Extension programs in Valley County.

Program Outcomes

The programs presented from Valley County had a 4-H youth development and community development focus. A total of 74 adults and 194 youth (a total of 268) participated in the program as live audiences. Indirect

views ranged from 104 to 18 views per video (referenced on March 22, 2023) totaling 337 indirect views of five programs. The developed programs focused on topics relevant to Valley County stakeholders and statewide audiences.

Energy Detectives focused on little actions residents can take to increase the energy efficiency to heat their homes. Youth participated in identifying insulation and air sealing in a local home in Valley County. Idaho Power, Dylan Martin, was featured as a guest presenter.

The Get Outdoors — Explore Valley County program focused on the responsible use of natural amenities when there are no services provided. Many landscapes in Valley County are undeveloped and recreationists are expected to pack it in and pack it out. This presentation focused on the responsible use of shared recreational landscapes.

The Idaho Association of Natural Resources and Community Development Extension Professionals, along with the National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals recognized the Design your Community program for an Educational Technology award. The City of McCall, Brian Parker, was featured as a guest presenter. The video can be viewed at [Design your Community](#).

The Cooking, Coding and Communication curriculum was developed to help recognize the communication similarities to deliver clear instructions in cooking and coding. Beth Wegner co-developed the lesson with Alysson Statz during her AmeriCorps placement. Addie Wegner and Cady Mead presented it for the U and I Together series during their AmeriCorps service.

DIY Last Minute Halloween Projects was presented and co-developed by Bridget Morrisroe-Aman, UI

Extension educator for Ada County, and the program discussed the positive influence adults can have on youth by participating in projects and spending quality time. The presentation discussed the positive impacts of creativity on young people, building confidence to problem solve and develop solutions to challenges. So, don't hesitate to roll up your sleeves and get creative next Halloween.

- U and I Together series created a model for how educators with different backgrounds and UI Extension expertise could work together.
- U and I Together series broadened the reach of rural educators' voices from county-specific to state-wide audiences.
- Design your Community program was recognized by state and national Extension peers as an exceptional educational technology program.
- U of I Together series did an excellent job of reaching both in-person and indirect audiences for UI Extension programs.

Cooperators and Co-Sponsors

Thank you, Dylan Martin with Idaho Power, Brian Parker with the City of McCall, Addie Wegner (AmeriCorps), Cady Mead (AmeriCorps), for presenting in the programs developed by UI Extension, Valley County professionals. Thank you, Beth Wegner, for co-developing the coding class. Thank you to the neighborhood kids in McCall for participation in the production of the videos. Thank you to the educators that organized the U and I Together program (Surine Greenway, Amy Robertson, Katie Hickok and Nic Usabel). The program has created an opportunity for rural educators to share their knowledge and present it to virtual audiences to have a statewide impact and national recognition.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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