



# CONNECTION

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EPSILON SIGMA PHI

The Cooperative Extension Professionals' Organization

## 2000 National Distinguished Service Ruby Award Recipient

### LeRoy D. Luft

Associate Vice Provost for Outreach and Director of Idaho Cooperative Extension  
University of Idaho



LeRoy D. Luft

Dr. LeRoy D. Luft, University of Idaho, has been elected to receive the 2000 National Distinguished Service Ruby Award. He will deliver the prestigious Ruby Lecture at this year's Epsilon Sigma Phi National Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The Distinguished Service Ruby Award is the highest and most prestigious award presented by Epsilon Sigma Phi and is designed to recognize truly outstanding thinking, performance and leadership in Cooperative Extension. This award recognizes excellence in a career that spans a lifetime. Chapters nominate potential recipients. The selection process is an elective one. Chapter leaders review the nominations and determine their ratings for the entire set of candidates. Votes are weighted according to the number of voting delegates allocated per chapter based on number of lifetime and employed members.

His ESP colleagues in Idaho wrote this statement of support in his Ruby Award nomination: "Dr. Luft has been instrumental in developing a

(See "Luft" Page 2)

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## Anticipate Excellence – Pathways to Success A Live Downlink Satellite TV Conference with Video Clips of the Gold Medal Award Winning Programs of Excellence Thursday, November 30, 2000

12 Noon - 2 PM EST  
11 AM - 1 PM CST

10 AM - 12 Noon MST  
9 AM - 11 AM PST

Increase your knowledge of "Gold Medal" programming that shows how Cooperative Extension programs are exemplifying the concepts of the Engaged Institution thus making our efforts more valued by clientele. Agricultural, natural resources, youth, family, and community programs will be featured. These selected illustrative programs will be shared on video segments submitted by states. A registration form is printed on Page 7 of this publication. Additional

information is available on the ESP National Web Site at:  
<http://esp-nat.tamu.edu> or contact the National Office of ESP at:  
[jcarlson@prtel.com](mailto:jcarlson@prtel.com)

Epsilon Sigma Phi is sponsoring the videoconference in cooperation with CSREES-USDA and Utah State University. Both KU and C Band broadcasts will be provided.

*("Luft" from Page 1)*

vision that will help take Extension into the new millennium. Dr. Luft has worked successfully at all levels - county faculty, specialist faculty, and in administration - during his career. He is highly respected by his peers for providing progressive and insightful leadership for Extension, both locally and at the national level. Dr. Luft has always supported a well-trained and progressive faculty to meet the needs of the people. In his ten plus years in Idaho, funding support from counties has nearly doubled. The Idaho 4-H Endowment has grown from less than \$100,000 to over \$1 Million in cash and securities and over \$500,000 of property and real estate during his tenure as director. He has been a champion for family, youth and county programming. His common sense and his leadership and management abilities have been a tremendous asset to the State of Idaho and the national Extension System."

Dr. Luft is a native of Culbertson, Montana, having grown up on a grain/livestock farm. He received his B.S. in agricultural education and his M.S. in agricultural economics from Montana State University. His Ph.D., also in agricultural economics, is from the University of Nebraska. He served as an infantry officer for two years, was a

county agent for four years, an Extension farm management specialist for twelve years, and a private economic consultant for five years. He served as associate director and interim director of the Montana State University Extension Service for four years and was appointed director of the Idaho Extension System in August of 1989. In May of 1998, he was also appointed as Associate Vice Provost for Outreach.

He has written numerous publications and is a member of several professional organizations. He has represented Extension directors of the western states on the Western Regional Council and the National Extension Committee, both of which set program priorities for the Extension System. He was chair of the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP) in 1996 and served as chair of the ECOP Budget Committee for the FY96 budget. ECOP represents the 57 state, territory, and D.C. Extension Systems in policy decisions and provides nationwide program and organizational leadership and makes and communicates policy decisions for the system.

*Letters of congratulations can be sent to Dr. Luft at P. O. Box 443163, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844-3163.*

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## National Dues for 2001

Payable in Fall of 2000

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The Epsilon Sigma Phi chapter and national dues for 2001 are paid during the final three months of this year. Most chapter members pay these dues in connection with registration or attendance at fall chapter conferences or meetings. A few chapters have mail campaigns for the purpose of paying for annual memberships. There is an increase in national dues starting with those paid for 2001.

The National Council adopted this national dues schedule at their meeting in Indianapolis a year ago. National annual dues will be \$30 starting with 2001. A paid-up life membership, available for purchase at the time of or after retirement, is always five times the annual dues so that calculates to be \$150. First time members pay annual dues (\$30) plus an additional \$5 for processing.



## CONNECTION

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The Cooperative Extension Professionals' Organization  
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## 2000 Regional Epsilon Sigma Phi Award Winners

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### NORTHEAST REGION

Linda L. Robbins (NY) –  
*Distinguished Service*  
Madeleine Greene (MD) –  
*Distinguished Mid Career Service*  
Dale M. Johnson (MD) –  
*Distinguished International Service*

#### *Regional Distinguished Team Award*

Maryland – Hort 400 – A Virtual Course That Teaches Real Skills

David S. Ross  
John D. Lea-Cox  
Ellen N. Varley  
K. Marc Tefteau  
Paul D. Schreuders

### NORTH CENTRAL REGION

John Creswell (IA) –  
*Distinguished Service*  
Eileen Krumbach (NE) –  
*Distinguished Mid Career Service*  
Marshall A. Martin (IN) –  
*Distinguished International Service*

#### *Regional Distinguished Team Award*

Ohio – Navigating Midlife

Susan Crusey  
Joyce Fittro  
Carol S. Miller  
Carol Chandler

### SOUTHERN REGION

Judy Bland (GA) –  
*Distinguished Service*  
Elizabeth L. Andress (GA) –  
*Distinguished Mid Career Service*  
Nancy Granovsky (TX) –  
*Distinguished International Service*

#### *Regional Distinguished Team Award*

North Carolina - North Carolina Children, Youth and Families at Risk Initiative

Karen DeBord	Luci Bearon
Mike Davis	Kevin Gamble
Barbara Garland	Lisa Guion
Judith Hackney	Susan S. Jakes
Ray Kimsey	Eddie Locklear
Judy Mock	Jon Ort
Robin Roper	Sharon Rowland

### WESTERN REGION

Robert M. Ohlensehlen (ID) –  
*Distinguished Service*  
Mir Mohammad Seydbagheri (ID) –  
*Distinguished Mid Career Service*  
Brian Tuck (OR) –  
*Distinguished International Service*

#### *Regional Distinguished Team Award*

Idaho - School-Based Health Enhancement Project

Lynn Harris  
Janice Stimpson  
Audrey Liddil  
Jane Spall  
Virginia Allen

The mission of Epsilon Sigma Phi is to foster the standards of excellence in the Extension System and to develop the Extension Profession and Professional.



## Candidates for National Second Vice-President

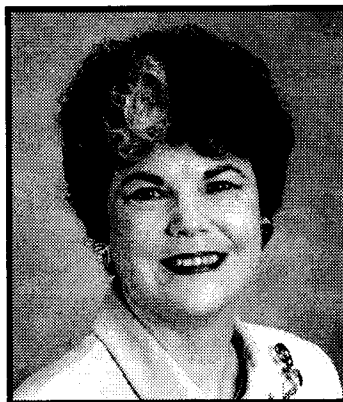
Elected from Southern Region at National Council Meeting in Salt Lake City  
Becomes national president in 2003

*Nominated by Alpha Alpha Chapter in Louisiana*

Michele Abington-Cooper is currently the Director of the Internal Leadership Program; Assistant Director for LSU Ag Center Agriculture Leadership Development Program and a member of the 4-H Curriculum Development Team.

Abington-Cooper's Extension career includes 25 years of service as a 4-H agent in Franklin Parish, Louisiana. Then in 1996 she joined the State Environmental Education faculty at Louisiana State University and became the assistant director of the LSU AgCenter Leadership Development Program. In that role she served on the Southern Region Water Quality Planning Committee and the State Environmental Education Commission.

**ESP Leadership:** Alpha Alpha Chapter elected her to be their president in 1994. Two years later her Southern Region colleagues elected her as the Regional Vice President. In that position she completed a two-year term on the ESP National Board and served as chair as the National Resource Development and Management Standing Committee and worked on developing the current ESP National Strategic Plan.



**Michele Abington-Cooper**  
Director, AgCenter Internal  
Leadership Development Program  
Louisiana Cooperative Extension  
Service  
Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge, LA

**Community Involvement:** She is a member of ABWA and was recognized as their Woman of the Year. She is a member of the First Baptist Church, Winnsboro, LA. For eight years she was chair of the "All Cotton Style Show" at the Northeast Louisiana Ag Expo. While she worked in Franklin Parish she was active in the Chamber of Commerce.

**Major Awards:** Three Extension professional associations (NEAFCS, NAE4-HA & ESP) have recognized Abington-Cooper with Distinguished Service Awards. She received the Florence Hall Award for Public Policy Education and Dean Don Felker Financial Management Award from NEAFCS. For three years she has been on an Extension education team

that received an award for Distinguished Service by the USDA.

### **Education:**

PhD Louisiana State University  
Course work completed  
MS Northeast Louisiana University, 1971  
Administration and Supervision and  
Home Economics  
BS Northeast Louisiana University, 1970  
Home Economics/English

## Looking for a research project?

What benefits do the individual leader and his or her organization gain from being leaders in Extension's professional organizations?

JCEP (Joint Council of Extension Professionals) has issued a RFP (Request for Proposal) seeking innovative research proposals to determine the benefits of association leadership to the individual professional, the profession, the associations, and the Cooperative Extension System as a whole. The goal of the project is to identify, to examine, and to communicate effectively with members and administrators about the benefits of leadership in organizations such as Epsilon Sigma Phi and other JCEP partner organizations.

JCEP will fund one proposal for \$1,500, with the project to begin March 1, 2001. A final report is to be made at the Galaxy II Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, in September 2003.

Proposals are due postmarked by December 15, 2000. For a copy of the RFP, contact Judy Carlson (jcarlson@prtcl.com) or Laurel Kubin (kubinl@co.larimer.co.us).



**Nominated by Alpha Zeta Chapter in Texas**

Bonnie McGee is currently an Assistant to the Director and responsible for Urban Programs of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service for the Texas A & M University System.

She began her Extension career as an Extension Home Agent in Escambia County, Alabama. Since that time she was a family life specialist in Colorado and a human development specialist and home economics program leader in New Hampshire prior to her move to Texas in 1994. In addition to her urban initiative responsibilities in Texas she is the Program Director for the South Texas AmeriCorps Initiative.

**ESP Leadership:** McGee was initiated into Epsilon Sigma Phi in Nu Chapter in New Hampshire just before she moved to Texas in 1994. Shortly thereafter she became active in Alpha Zeta leadership as the co-chair of the headquarters group. Since she has worked on the chapter cabinet as secretary and currently she is the chapter's vice president.



**Bonnie Daugherty McGee**  
Professor & Assistant Director –  
Urban Programs  
Texas Agricultural Extension  
Service  
Texas A & M University System  
College Station, TX

**Community Involvement:** McGee reports being active in the Christ United Methodist Church, College Station, Texas. She is a member of the board of directors for: (1) Brazos County Prenatal Clinic, (2) Texas 4-H & Youth Development Foundation, and (3) Texas Rural Leadership Program.

**Major Awards:** Last year she was named the Outstanding Woman of Brazos County. The Governor of Texas recognized her twice with an Award of Excellence – Clean Texas. She was a 1995 honorary member of the Texas Association for Family, Community Education. While in New Hampshire she was recognized by Epsilon Sigma Phi for outstanding achievement. She was honored by the Alabama 4-H Center

and the Escambia County Farm Bureau with an honorary plaque.

**Education:**

PhD Texas A & M University, 1994  
Educational Human Resource Development  
M Ed Colorado State University, 1974  
Adult Education  
MS University of Southern Mississippi, 1970  
Family Life Education  
BS University of Southern Mississippi 1967

**Celebrate the good news!!!**

## National ESP numbers grow again in 2000

The good news is that the number of national annual memberships in Epsilon Sigma Phi continues to increase annually. Many chapters have upgraded their criteria for membership to be a better match for the characteristics of contemporary staffing patterns within the Cooperative Extension Service. As a result of those upgrades the membership of the Epsilon Sigma Phi, across the nation the *Cooperative Extension Professionals' Organization*, has increased over the past year.

**Table 1 Membership Statistics as of August 23, 2000\***

Year	Annual Memberships	Paid-up Life Members (N)	Total Members (N)
1999	4,365	4,313	8,678
2000	4,388	4,305	8,693
Increase/Decrease	+23	-8	+15

\*Additional 2000 annual memberships and new paid-up life memberships will be reported before 2001 dues are paid.

# 1994 Land-Grant Tribal Colleges

## Expanding our partnerships to newest Land-Grants

There's a new partnering opportunity between Epsilon Sigma Phi, other Cooperative Extension entities and two related organizations and the thirty-one 1994 Land-Grant Tribal Colleges. Tribal Colleges were awarded federal land-grant status in 1994. Although the authorized programs are modest, this designation will eventually provide economic development and greater self-sufficiency in some of the most remote and disadvantaged areas of this country.

Tribal Colleges were created over the last 30 years in response to the higher education needs of American Indians, and generally serve geographical areas where populations have no other means of accessing education beyond the high school level. These institutions of higher learning are becoming increasingly important to American Indian students. That importance has developed in a relatively brief period of time. Tribal Colleges are unique institutions that combine personal attention with cultural relevance, in such a way as to encourage American Indians to overcome the barriers they face to higher education.

These Land-Grant Tribal Colleges are represented in the National Association of State Universities and

Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC) by the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC). The AIHEC web site is a good location to access information regarding the 1994 Tribal Colleges. The address is <http://www.aihec.org>

The National Board of Epsilon Sigma Phi, in cooperation with Joan Gill at CSREES, has invited faculty and leaders at the Tribal Colleges to participate in the ESP National Professional Development Conference in Salt Lake City later this fall. The reduced host state registration fee has been extended to any Tribal College participant and mentors will be designated as their special hosts.

### Arizona

Dine College – Tsaile, AZ

### California

D – Q University – Davis, CA

### Kansas

Haskell Indian Nations University - Lawrence, KS

### Michigan

Bay Mills Community College - Brimely, MI

Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa - Baraga, MI

### Minnesota

Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College – Cloquet, MN

Leech Lake Tribal College – Cass Lake, MN

White Earth Tribal & Community College—Mahnoman, MN

### Montana

Blackfeet Community College – Browning, MT

Dull Knife Memorial College – Lame Deer, MT

Fort Belknap Community College – Harlem, MT

Fort Peck Community College – Poplar, MT

Little Big Horn College – Crow Agency, MT

Salish Kootenai College – Pablo, MT

Stone Child Community College – Box Elder, MT

### Nebraska

Little Priest Tribal College – Winnebago, NE

Nebraska Indian Community College - Niobrara, NE

### New Mexico

Crown Point Institute of Technology - Crownpoint, NM

Institute of American Indian Arts - Sante Fe, NM

Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute - Albuquerque, NM

### North Dakota

Fort Berthold Community College - New Town, ND

Cankdeska Cikana Community College – Fort Totten, ND

Sitting Bull College - Fort Yates, ND

Turtle Mountain Community College - Belcourt, ND

United Tribes Technical College, Bismark - ND

### South Dakota

Si Tanka College - Eagle Butte, SD

Oglala Lakota College - Kyle, SD

Sinte Gleska University - Rosebud, SD

Sisseton Wahpeton Community College – Sisseton, SD

### Washington

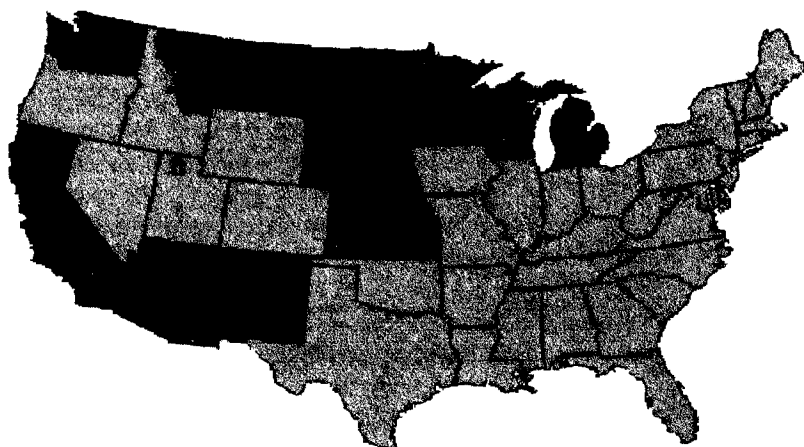
NW Indian College – Bellingham, WA

### Wisconsin

College of the Menominee Nation – Keshena, WI

Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa – Hayward, WI

\*\* Dark shading denotes states where Tribal Colleges are located.



National Conference

## SCHOLARSHIP AUCTION

Raises funds for National ESP Scholarships

A benefit of membership in Epsilon Sigma Phi is the opportunity to obtain scholarships for professional development. The most popular scholarships are those four \$500 scholarships to help finance participation in the Public Issue Leadership Development (PILD) Conference. In 1999 these scholarships were granted to: Gertrude Dougherty, PA; Alma Fonseca, TX; Libby Curry, KS; and Marlene Berger, UT. These and other scholarships are possible as a result of funds raised at the Scholarship Auction at each ESP National Conference and available earnings from the ESP National Foundation Endowment Fund.

Recently, four professional development project proposals were funded. These were submitted by: Daniel Fernandez, CO; Ann Swinker, CO; Stacey Warner, KS; and Paul E. Lehman, NY. Professional development mini grants were funded for Illinois, New York and North Carolina.

At the National Conference, on November 30, 2000, the National Scholarship Auction will be staged for some fund raising fun to provide money for scholarships offered next year. Iota Chapter in Utah will conduct the auction during a Fiesta Buffet. All ESP members and chapters are encouraged to provide items for the auction. The products of talents of members, regional unique food products, gift certificates, Extension related collectibles, antiques, books and a plethora of other items have been popular. Contact the National office for shipping information at 218-864-8678 or [jcarlson@prtcl.com](mailto:jcarlson@prtcl.com)

To Apply for a  
\$500 Scholarship to

# PILD 2001

Submit Application  
By January 15, 2001

PILD will be  
April 29—May 2, 2001  
In Washington, DC

See Chapter Handbook  
Section E for Information  
And Application Format  
<http://esp-nat.tamu.edu>



## 2000 ESP Professional Development Videoconference

**Anticipating Excellence --**  
Pathways to Success

**Featuring:**  
Gold Medal Award Winning  
**Programs of Excellence**

**Thursday, November 30, 2000**

**Satellite Viewing Times:**

12 Noon - 2 PM EST  
10 A M - 12 Noon MST

11 AM - 1 PM CST  
9 AM - 11 A M PST

Fee Schedule for Cooperative  
Extension Sites in a Single State

_____ Individual Site	\$150
_____ 2 -10 Sites	\$300
_____ 11 - 20 Sites	\$450
_____ Unlimited	\$600

**Registration Deadline: November 6, 2000**

Name of Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Send purchase order number \_\_\_\_\_ or make check payable to:

Epsilon Sigma Phi, Inc.  
Mail to: Judy Carlson, P.O. Box 626  
Battle Lake, MN 56515

Phone: 218-864-8678

Fax: 218-864-8064

[jcarlson@prtcl.com](mailto:jcarlson@prtcl.com)



## CONNECTION

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### PILD 2000 recap

When Alma Fonseca returned to Texas from PILD 2000 she sent us her recap. She reports learning techniques that will help her more effectively build support for Extension among a variety of stakeholders.

She wrote:

*"The mission of 2000 PILD was to promote communication, cooperation and professionalism among all Extension in the area of public issues education. One of the session speakers conducted an interactive seminar entitled, "Who Calls the Shot?" where he explained how public decisions are made and who makes them. We learned that once public problems are identified, facts are gathered from replicated research based on empirical evidence. Myths also play a role in public decisions that result in laws. As Extension educators, we can increase the body of facts and provide policy makers with those facts in a condensed amount of time while decreasing the body of myths. By emphasizing the facts related to public problems, decision makers can base their decisions on facts rather than myths. Decision makers also rely on their values to make policy decisions. Extension can help policy makers by pointing out consequences for their actions and objectively*

*helping them arrive at solutions to public problems.*

*The highlight of the Conference was meeting with legislative directors and aides for our Texas Senators and several of our Congressmen on Capitol Hill. It is important to research the issues that legislators are interested in. We shared outcomes and impacts from programs in agriculture, family and consumer sciences, 4-H and youth development and information technology. They were all very impressed with the quality and diverse issue-based programming that is benefiting their constituents. They were eager to share the information with the Senators and Congressmen they work for. We experienced what it was like to communicate Extension's issues and impacts in a condensed and focused manner in the hallways of the House and Senate buildings.*

*This year we attended "Workshops on the Move" and toured the recently occupied U. S. Department of Agriculture's Cooperative State, Research Education and Extension Service offices. There, we discussed ways Extension can be better engaged with research and the future of the Engaged Institution. We heard updates from national program leaders and lobbyists. The conference concluded with a discussion of how to use the information learned to impact state and local government officials. The Conference provided a great opportunity to network with Extension professionals in all areas."*