

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Miller County

2023 Annual Report

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**SERVE
MISSOURI.**

**DELIVER
MIZZOU.**



Extension
University of Missouri

an equal opportunity/ADA institution



Office of Extension
and Engagement
University of Missouri

OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR
FOR EXTENSION AND ENGAGEMENT
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December 2023

Dear county commissioners and friends of MU Extension and Engagement,

Thank you for your important partnership with the University of Missouri Extension this past year.

I want to highlight three areas that address needs you helped us identify.

You may recall that the FY 23 state budget provided a one-time \$5 million infusion to MU Extension for growth. Of that, we allocated about \$3 million for field faculty in the areas of agriculture, 4-H, health/human development and business and community development.

Through a dedicated hiring effort, and thanks to that allocation, we have hired 168 new employees since November 2022. That includes 72 academic/faculty members, most of whom are field specialists in a priority area noted above, and 96 staff members (e.g., office administrators, youth and food and nutrition associates, etc.).

We also returned more faculty to local program delivery that best serves your county's needs, while preserving the partnership and relationship building work you value. Our extension and engagement specialists focus full-time on that work as they serve their assigned multi-county groups. Currently, 19 have been hired, with two more in the pipeline.

Finally, we are prioritizing our work with county extension councils. In the new role of partnership and council development director, Lorin Fahrmeier focuses on strengthening council representation and governance. This role will build stronger links with regional, educational and campus leadership to better identify and address local priorities.

At the UM System level, our engagement work across four universities and with leaders across the state makes a difference in areas of greatest need: broadband, workforce development, health access, food security and healthy futures for our youth.

Your county annual report shows what we are accomplishing together as we Serve Missouri and Deliver Mizzou. We look forward to strengthening that partnership with county commissioners and community stakeholders in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Chad Higgins, PhD
Interim Vice Chancellor, MU Extension and Engagement
Chief Engagement Officer, UM System

Who we are

Faculty and staff



Our commitment

Brandi Richardson
Extension Engagement Specialist
Bethany Prenger
4H Youth Development Field Specialist
Rudra Baral
Agronomy Specialist
Gatlin Bunton
Livestock Specialist
Jennifer Kempker
Youth Program Associate
Linda Galimore
Office Support

Council members

Robb Young, Chair
Winnie McKinley, Co-Chair
Johnnie-Briggs Taylor, Treasurer
Cathy Galland, Secretary
Chuck Miller, MFA
Don Abbett, Commissioner
Don Steen, Farm Bureau
Leslie Wilson
Matthew Kostelnik



County commissioners

Presiding Commissioner: Kevin Cardwell
District 1 Commissioner: Don Abbett
District 2 Commission: Travis Lawson

Budget and more



Appropriations budget

Income

County Appropriations 48,000

Total Income

Expenses

Salaries/Benefits 36,032.59

Travel 2,698.30

Office Supplies/Service 7,121.42

Insurance 2,317.49

Misc 3,954.21

Total Expenses 52,124.01

Through a network of county offices, the University of Missouri solves problems and engages with communities across all 114 counties and the City of St. Louis.

MU faculty, staff and elected council members, who live in your community, work with you to identify local interests and issues and then offer relevant programming and resources to meet the unique needs of you and your community.

Our job is to partner with communities to find solutions with credible, science-based information that will help you:

- Grow safe and healthy food
- Build and grow profitable businesses
- Improve your health and relationships
- Increase agricultural production
- Update professional training in business, health and safety
- Engage youth as valued, contributing citizens

Explore the MU Extension website and Miller County pages to discover how MU Extension can enhance your life.

MU Extension is a unique funding partnership.

Extension funding is a three-way partnership of federal, state and county government. Federal and state money, through the University of Missouri system, pay professional staff salaries, training costs, computers and communication equipment. County funds support the local office, secretarial and youth assistant salaries, staff mileage and council expenses.

The *Phelps* County Extension Council, faculty and staff would like to express our appreciation to the *Phelps* County Commissioners for their continued support of extension programs.



Local Support

Did you know you can donate directly to Maries County Extension with a gift to be used immediately or as an endowment contribution for long term efforts. Monies put into the endowment are left forever to earn interest with the county office benefiting each year. You can also direct your donation to a specific program such as 4-H or Master Gardeners.

Our Services...

At Miller Co. Extension
We provide....

- Soil Testing for both Pasture & Garden
- Water Testing (Excluding Drinking Water)
- Hay Testing
- Private Pesticide Training courses
- Job search assistance
- Health & Nutrition Classes
- Pest & insect Identification
- Livestock Support
- Housing Assistance
- Family Education
- Business Development
- Pressure Canner Testing

Publication Resources
Available:

- NCBA Red Book for Livestock Record Keeping
- Farmer's Tax Guide Booklet
- Private Pesticide Manuals
- Farm Tax Record Books





Bethany Prenger
4-H Field Specialist in Youth
Development

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Impact Update

2023

Covering Maries, Miller, and Pulaski Counties

KEY SUCCESSES

- ❖ SMQA training has been scheduled for our newest members, as well as, shooting sports safety trainings.
- ❖ Newly formed clubs in Miller and Pulaski counties have been created.
- ❖ State Teams are in the process of being created for State Events such as Horse Bowl. Clubs are focusing on events and activities to make member excited! Move Across Missouri Will take place and there is a lot of interest in that!
- ❖ Current clubs have been contacted and club visits continue to help our clubs, leaders, and members be successful!
- ❖ Professional Development and Other Activities completed by Bethany:
 - ❖ Youth Futures Training
 - ❖ Promoting our Programs and Clubs to Extension Councils
 - ❖ Camp Director Meetings
 - ❖ Monthly Check-ins with YPA's
- ❖ Social Media Engagement in the last 28 days via our social media pages. *We strive to create positive and educational moments to encourage growth and education about and within 4-H and our clubs.*
 - ❖ Maries: 84 individuals
 - ❖ Miller: 1,100 individuals
 - ❖ Pulaski: 557 Individuals

AT A GLANCE

This month clubs were excited to celebrate Christmas, give back to the communities through physical gifts and the gift of their time and energy. Clubs and members held gift exchanges for themselves, donated their time and talents and really enjoyed the month of December.



All counties are working on educating, connecting and communicate, and growth.

Connect with the Youth in our Programs
Through our social media pages!



Maries County
4-H



Miller County
4-H



Pulaski County
4-H



Miller County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Rudra Baral, MU Extension Field Specialist in Agronomy

Serving Counties: Cole, Gasconade, Maries, Miller, Osage and Pulaski

Activities/Engagement

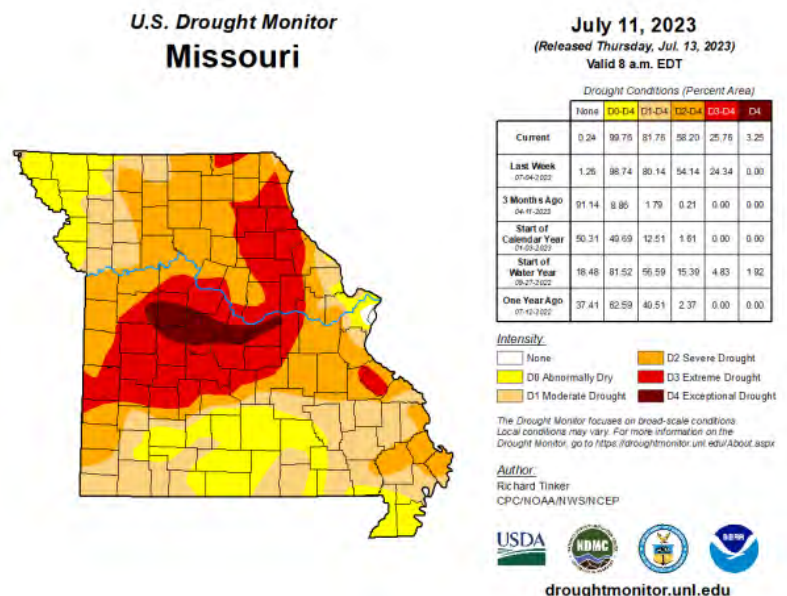
Nitrate testing

The major field crops grown in the counties I serve consist of soybeans, corn, wheat, and hay, with a notable emphasis on livestock farming, especially cattle and poultry. Farmers in the region grow substantial amounts of johnson grass, sorghum sudan, tall fescue, and oats for hay purpose. During the summer of 2023, this region experienced moderate to severe drought, leading to a significant impact on summer annual forages. According to the 2023 crop loss assessment, forage production decreased up to 73% compared to previous years. The drought not only declined forage yield and overall production but also resulted in nitrate poisoning in the summer annual forages.

To address this issue, I obtained a diphenylamine solution from the MU Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Lab (VMDL) and established a free nitrate testing facility in Miller, Osage, and Maries counties. A total of 26 hay samples were tested, revealing that 11 of them had high nitrate content, indicating they were unsafe for feeding cattle. Further analysis was conducted on 3 samples sent to MU VMDL for quantitative nitrate testing, revealing that 2 samples had nitrate levels exceeding 10,000 ppm, which is highly toxic if fed to livestock. Additionally, 4 hay samples were shipped to Warl lab in Nebraska for NIRS plus nitrate quantitative testing. Besides testing, I also wrote an article titled "Nitrate Poisoning in Forage: Management and Prevention" and shared it through the local newspaper.

Fig 1. Drought map of Missouri during the forage growing season in 2023

Fig 2. Nitrate testing for summer annual forage in MU Extension Office in Miller County



Horticulture Programs

Dhruba Dhakal, PhD
Field Specialist in Horticulture
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2023

Serving Cole, Callaway, Osage, Miller, Maries, Pulaski, Phelps, Moniteau
Helping until new horticulturist hired: Boone

- Extension Master Gardener Training- Mid-Missouri- 12 weeks-training: 12 participants from 4 counties**
- Extension Master Pollinator Steward- Mid-Missouri- 6 weeks-training: 9 participants from 5 counties**
- Tomato Production Workshop in Cole County – 14 participants**
- Composting Workshop in Cole County- 27 participants**
- Composting Workshop in Callaway County- 12 participants**
- Composting Workshop in Osage County- 6 participants**
- Composting Workshop in Boone County- 7 participants**
- Garlic Production Virtual Workshop – 97 participants**
- Garlic Production Workshop in Cole County – 10 participants**
- Garlic Production Workshop in Boone County – 22 participants**
- Workshop on Drought Management in Garden Plants in Boone County – 16 participants**
- Workshop on Drought Management in Garden Plants in Cole County – 6 participants**
- Workshop on Soil Health Improvement in the Garden in Boone County – 45 participants**
- Workshop on Soil and Nutrient Management in the Garden in Cole County – 15 participants**
- Workshop on Soil and Nutrient Management in the Garden in Osage County – 8 participants**
- Workshop on Soil and Nutrient Management in the Garden in Phelps County – 23 participants**
- Workshop on Soil and Nutrient Management in the Garden in Boone County – 13 participants**
- Workshop on Container and Raised Bed Gardening in Cole County – 22 participants**
- Workshop on Container and Raised Bed Gardening in Pulaski County – 15 participants**
- Workshop on Soil Health Improvement in the Garden in Cole County – 25 participants**
- Workshop on Pruning Trees in Phelps County – 35 participants**
- Talk on Planting Cover Crops in the Garden in Cole County- 35 participants**
- Garden n Grow – 16-weeks program- Cole County- 15 participants (10 kids + 5 adults)**
- Conducted 26 Weekly Field Plant Diagnostic Clinic- About 100 plant samples diagnosed, ~150 clients served**
- Weekly/Monthly Garden Hour- Served as Host and Speaker – 6 sessions**
- Successful on a North Central SARE grant- \$250k on a team- study on fusarium root rot in farmer's field for 3-years**
- Farmer's market price data survey in Mid-MO – 6 markets 2 times each- Collaboration with MDA**
- Received soil test reports and provided recommendations to the clients- ~200 samples**
- Provided Qualitative Nitrate Testing in forages - ~70 samples**
- Visited Farms- ~60**
- Received Phone Calls- ~300**
- Prepared Radio Talks- 47 talks; Extension News Articles-2; Newsletter Article- Mexico Ledger-7, Journal article -1.**

Horticulture Programs

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2023

Serving Cole, Callaway, Osage, Miller, Maries, Pulaski, Phelps, Moniteau
Helping until new horticulturist hired: Boone



Participants at Container Gardening Workshop in Cole County



Participants of Master Pollinator Steward at Field Session in Prairie Garden Trust



Participants at Mid-MO EMG Training Field sessions



Performed quick nitrate testing in forages



Visited field with strawberry issue

Miller County Family Nutrition Education Program

Local Impact

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Education or SNAP-Ed) brought \$10,874,798 in federal funds to Missouri. During FY2023, Missouri's SNAP-Ed program reached over 78,000 Missourians through direct classroom education. Each person participated in an average of 6 hours of education totaling over 15,000 hours. In addition, an additional 760,135 persons participated in indirect education. Direct and indirect education resulted in over 1.8 million total contacts with Missourians.

Participants in SNAP-Ed learn the importance of making healthier meals and snack choices, eating breakfast more often, are more willing to try new foods, increase their physical activity, and make healthier food choices. Those who practice healthy eating and are physically active are more likely to contribute to a healthy labor force and enjoy a high quality of life throughout the lifespan.

This vital programming effort also reduces healthcare costs over the participant's lifetime, saving taxpayer money in reduced public healthcare benefits and insurance premiums.

A total of 93 Direct Education participants were from Miller County.

Our Nutrition Program Associates (NPAs) are also continuing to provide information about the SNAP benefits program and offer assistance with SNAP benefits applications.

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) brought \$1,626,730 federal funds to Missouri. These funds were used to enroll 526 limited-resource families in nutrition education and meal preparation classes, representing 1,926 family members. Additionally, 1,980 youth were enrolled in EFNEP classes.

54 of these youth and adult participants reside in Miller County.

Participants in EFNEP learn the importance of making healthier meals and snack choices, eating breakfast more often, trying new foods, increasing their physical activity, and making healthier food choices. Those who practice healthy eating and are physically active are more likely to contribute to a healthy labor force and enjoy a high quality of life throughout the lifespan. This vital programming effort also reduces healthcare costs over the participant's lifetime, saving taxpayer money in reduced public healthcare benefits and insurance premiums.



LAKE AREA MASTER GARDENERS (LAMG) – 2023 Report

Twenty-four Lake Area Master Gardeners (LAMG) contributed more than 1,280 volunteer service hours in the Lake Area during 2022. These hours reflect work done in both Camden and Miller Counties. LAMG maintain the Willmore Lodge Gardens and decorate the Lodge entrance for fall and the lodge inside and outside for Christmas. Volunteers worked in LAMG local garden projects, Share the Harvest, and shared advice and resources at booths (Farmers Market in Eldon, MO and local festivals as the Camden County Historical Museum's Fall Festival). Plants and seeds were also given away at booths.

A Garden Festival was hosted by LAMG at Willmore Lodge on May 13, 2023. The Festival had presentations inside the lodge. Presentations were related to various gardening topics. Rosalee Knipp, Forest Pest Program Coordinator at the Missouri Department of Agriculture spoke about "Forest Pests in Missouri". Caroline Toole, Lake of the Ozark Watershed Alliance President, shared information about "Terraced Rain Garden and Beautiful Buffer Strips". Sheila Morse, Permaculture Designer and Traditional Herbalist, share "Seed Saving" information and tips. LAMG had a Plant Sale and Information Booth outside the lodge. Attendees could purchase garden gloves at the Information Booth. Any funds raised at the Garden Festival go toward the LAMG Scholarship Program. LAMG partnered with a local food truck, to sell snacks and drinks. The food truck went through the approval process of the Miller County Health Department. Garden Festival participants had the opportunity to tour the gardens at the Lodge, along the path and down the hill at Lookout Point.

Monthly meetings were held February 14, 2023 through November 10, 2023. Each meeting started with an educational program followed by their business meeting. Continuing Education topics and speakers during the year were the following: Exploring Bee Keeping-Kathy Krupp, Lake Area Master Gardener; Providing Insect Sanctuary-Paula Diaz, GardeNerd Landscape Designer; Eating from the Garden/cooking demo-Larry Roberts, Eating from the Garden State Coordinator/MU Extension; Animal Pests-Trapper Adair, Adair's Animal Nuisance Trapping; MO Native Plant Landscaping-Sue Bartelette, LU Specialty Crops Program; Apps in the Outdoors-Morgan Wyatt, MO Dept. of Conservation; Floral Design: Silks and Fresh-Andrea Freeland, Lake Area Master Gardener; Four Seasons of Soil-Joni Harper, MU Extension-Morgan County; and Secret Plant Buddies-Lake Area Master Gardeners.

LAMG awarded four scholarships in 2023. One scholarship was a renewal for a 2020 Camdenton High School graduate. She attends the University Missouri of Science & Technology majoring in Geological Engineering. A second scholarship was a renewal for a 2021 School of the Osage High School graduate. She attends Mississippi State University majoring in Biological Sciences-Botany. The third scholarship was a renewal for a 2022 School of the Osage graduate. He attends the University of Missouri-Columbia majoring in Agriculture. The fourth scholarship was awarded to a 2023 St. Elizabeth High School graduate for his freshmen year at Drury University. He plans to major in Fisheries and Wildlife Management.



LAMG Plant Sale during 2023 Garden Festival held at Willmore Lodge, Lake Ozark, MO.



MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU** through credible statewide programs **Business and Community**



Missourians from all walks of life celebrated the **2023 Missouri Good Neighbor Week**, Sept. 28 to Oct. 4, by completing and reporting neighboring acts and nominating others as the most engaged neighbors in their counties.

In 2023, the goal was to document 15,000 acts of neighboring. That goal was surpassed with 19,752 Missourians being positively affected during MISSOURI GOOD NEIGHBOR WEEK.



DEMOGRAPHIC, ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DATA TRAINING

MU Exceed offers customized data training. Participants learn how to use public data through hands-on exercises and demonstrations.

In 2022, Exceed provided data training to MORE THAN 200 MISSOURIANS. 95% of the attendees said that the information they learned was useful to their work.



The annual **Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities** conference is designed for stakeholders, economic developers, businesses, local government, educators and nonprofits interested in increasing their communities' potential for entrepreneurship. In 2023, the conference offered breakout sessions in Benton County's shops and businesses, providing firsthand insight into the world of entrepreneurial communities.

The 2023 conference drew 104 ATTENDEES, generating an estimated initial economic impact of around \$33,000 FOR BENTON COUNTY.

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

BUILDING CIVIC CAPACITY FOR

THRIVING COMMUNITIES

What is Civic Capacity?

The collective strength of people in a place to respond to challenges and pursue thriving communities.

What we do

Experienced community development specialists provide research-based programming and resources to individuals, organizations and local governments based on their unique issues and assets.



How we do it

Through statewide programming, we empower residents, organizations and governments to build:

BELONGING

Building social capital and inclusivity

COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP

Engaging residents in civic life and decision-making

Guiding collaborations with diverse community leaders

Creating conditions for equitable, thriving, resourceful places

CONTRIBUTION

VITALITY



Why it's important:

When people feel belonging within the community, they are more likely to contribute to cultivating strong, equitable, prosperous places.

Community-led change is more likely to meet the needs of all residents and make enduring progress toward local vitality.

Testimonial

"I have learned that my voice is very important, and I am a force to be listened to. I had many ideas but didn't have the courage to pursue all avenues and to make things better for my community, but I now feel that my voice is very important and should be heard."

- Community Development program participant

Programs and Services

- Asset Mapping
- Community Arts Programming
- Community Assessment
- Community Engagement
- Community Planning Support/Coaching
- Community Resource Development
- Facilitation
- Neighborhood and Leadership Classes
- Strategic Doing
- Youth Civic Engagement Programs

About us

The University of Missouri Extension and the University of Missouri-St. Louis have a history of successful partnerships building capacity for thriving communities.

Contact us to discuss how we can work with you to build civic capacity for YOUR thriving community.

extension.missouri.edu/topics/community-development

Miller County

University of Missouri Extension ag economics department and ag business specialists worked together to coordinate one summer and three fall tax schools. The summer school was in person and live online. Fall schools were in Columbia and Springfield and in addition a was online. The schools were designed for those who prepare taxes including enrolled agents, tax preparers, CPAs, individuals, and attorneys.

The training included updates on legislation, rulings and cases, individual taxpayer issues, agricultural and natural resources topics, ethics, trusts and estates, agriculture and natural resource tax issues, business tax issues, business entity tax issues, IRS issues, penalties and defenses, form 4797 sales of property, retirement tax issues, like-kind exchange issues. The schools were approved for 8 and 16 hours of continuing education credit by the IRS, Missouri Bar and for CFP continuing education. Total continuing education hours reported to IRS for the schools was 3,336 hours.

The teaching teams included a CPA and former IRS stakeholder liaison, an IRS certified retired ag economics professor, an attorney, Missouri Department of Revenue and extension ag business specialists.

The resources for the schools included the IRS, the National Income Tax Workbook from the Land Grant University Tax Education Foundation, and materials written by the instructors.

The 2023 school attendance totaled three hundred twenty-seven people. The participants were from throughout Missouri.





MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU** through credible statewide programs **Community and Professional Health Education**



Recovery Friendly Workplaces (RFWs) foster a workplace culture that promotes employee safety, health and well-being through strategies that support managers and employees, including reducing stigma and providing recovery resources related to the challenges surrounding substance use disorders. The framework was developed in partnership with MU Extension's Labor and Workforce Development Program.

As of 2023, 25 Missouri businesses have been designated recovery friendly workplaces, and 2,248 EMPLOYEES have been trained on addiction, stigma and naloxone distribution.



Strengthening Families Program: for Parents and Youth 10-14, is a seven-session series for parents or caregivers and their young teens to attend together to improve family communication, resolve conflict and improve parental skills.

A research study conducted by the Partnerships in Prevention Science Institute found a RETURN OF \$9.60 for every dollar spent implementing the Strengthening Families Program.



PROSPER is a research-supported approach that promotes positive youth development and strong families through lifeskills education that increase protective factors and reduces risky behaviors among teens. Through a campus-community partnership, PROSPER Teams are created to support the implementation of two evidence-based programs with middle school students and their families.

"They have the old saying it takes a village to raise a child, the more the community comes together the better off the children are going to be in that community."

Peggy Saphian PROSPER Model Participant in Fredericktown, MO

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being



MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU** through credible statewide programs **Health and Human Sciences**



Divorcing or separating parents encounter distinct challenges when living apart. **Focus on Kids** guides parents in fostering effective co-parenting strategies to support their children through this process.

“Understanding that divorce doesn’t ruin children, but parents can significantly influence positive outcomes through good communication, was invaluable.”



Preschool through junior high youths learn how to maintain healthy lifestyles through information about nutrition, food safety and physical activity. **Show-Me Nutrition** classes support Missouri’s Show-Me education standards for health and physical education and the state’s School Wellness Policy.

“We have struggled with our daughter’s picky eating for years and have tried so many techniques to try and get her to eat new foods. Your influence on her has worked magic this year. She has come home so excited about trying new foods and has now become not only willing but excited to try new things.”

Parent of a Show-Me Nutrition participant



Cooking Matters teaches shopping strategies, using nutrition information to make healthier choices and to learn how to cook delicious, affordable meals at home.

“We prepared barley jambalaya in class and one participant mentioned she had never tried barley before. She tried the jambalaya and really enjoyed it. A few days later she excitedly said she made the recipe at home and her whole family enjoyed it!”

Cooking Matters facilitator about a class participant

Legend



Agricultural Growth
& Stewardship



Economic
Opportunity



Educational
Access &
Excellence



Health
& Well-Being