

**A Compendium of Rural Centers and Organizations at
The Pennsylvania State University
Collated by the Penn State Rural Interest Consortium**

A. Agricultural Health and Safety

AgrAbility for Pennsylvanians

College of Agricultural Sciences, University Park

<http://agexted.cas.psu.edu/agrab/Agrability.html>

AgrAbility for Pennsylvanians is a project combining the talents of Penn State Cooperative Extension, Easter Seals Central Pennsylvania and PA Assistive Technology Foundation. Our main funding source is the US Department of Agriculture. Under the umbrella of the National AgrAbility Project, we bring information and service to farmers and farm family members affected by disability in rural areas of the Commonwealth. AgrAbility for Pennsylvanians provides a critical service to the Commonwealth's agricultural community. Farming continues to rank as one of the most dangerous occupations in the country; and farmers struggle each day to cope with arthritis, knee and back problems -- to name just a few -- that are caused by the daily demands of production agriculture.

The Pennsylvania Agromedicine Program

College of Medicine, Penn State Hershey

<http://www.hmc.psu.edu/agromedicine/program/background.htm>

This outreach, research, and medical support initiative facilitates communication and addresses specific needs evolving in environmental and agricultural medical education and services. Medical expertise is provided by physicians with expertise in agricultural health and safety issues so that prompt and appropriate medical attention can be obtained.

Pennsylvania Rural Health Farm Worker Protection Safety Program

College of Health and Human Development, University Park

Penn State Outreach and Penn State Cooperative Extension

<http://porh.psu.edu/fwpp/index.shtml>

The goal of the Pennsylvania Rural Health Farm Worker Protection Safety Program is to assist the Pennsylvania farmer, grower and their employees in understanding and complying with the requirements of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Worker Protection Standard.

Penn State Agricultural Safety and Health

College of Agricultural Sciences, University Park

<http://www.agsafety.psu.edu/>

These programs focus on engineering for safety, emergency management, farmers with disabilities, best management practices, social impacts of farm work injuries, youth safety with injury and fatality data, educational resources and materials, and more.

B. Economic Development

Office of Economic and Workforce Development

Penn State Outreach, University Park

<http://oewd.psu.edu/>

The Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWd) helps to advance the economic well-being of Pennsylvania by serving as a catalyst, facilitator, and collaborator for using the resources, expertise, and intellectual assets of Penn State to help create and retain jobs in the Commonwealth and enhance the skills of its workforce.

Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development

College of Agricultural Sciences, University Park

<http://nercrd.psu.edu/>

The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development is dedicated to providing research-based information that helps create regional prosperity through entrepreneurial and cluster-based innovation, while assuring balanced uses of natural resources in livable communities in the northeastern United States.

C. Education

Center on Rural Education and Communities

College of Education, University Park

<http://www.ed.psu.edu/crec/home.htm>

The mission of the Center on Rural Education and Communities is to conduct and support both research and outreach activities that address rural education and community-related issues in Pennsylvania, the nation and the world. Based within Penn State's College of Education, we take the land grant mission of our institution seriously in our commitments to providing education and service to the people of Pennsylvania and beyond. We believe that issues affecting rural education cannot be separated from the community and social contexts within which they are embedded; ; research-based knowledge concerning rural schools and communities is best generated and acted upon when genuine collaborations exist between the University and the communities being served, and; the wisdom of practice must be combined with the insights that can be gleaned from scientific research. In pursuing our Center's mission then, our three major goals are to foster nationally significant interdisciplinary research alliances and outreach activities that benefit rural education and rural communities; serve as an information clearinghouse on issues affecting rural education and rural communities; and act as a convener and bridge between rural schools, and communities at local, state, tribal and national levels.

D. General

Penn State Cooperative Extension

<http://www.extension.psu.edu/>

The mission of Penn State Cooperative Extension is to enhance the quality of life of Pennsylvanians by providing non-formal outreach educational opportunities to individuals, families, businesses, and communities throughout the Commonwealth. Extension provides educational programs to enable the Commonwealth to maintain a competitive, environmentally sound food and fiber system, as well as to prepare youth, adults, and families to participate more fully in community decisions.

Penn State Outreach

<http://www.outreach.psu.edu/>

Penn State Outreach includes a wide range of units including Continuing and Distance Education, the World Campus, Continuing Education, and Penn State Public Broadcasting.

Social Science Research Institute

Vice President for Research

<http://www.ssri.psu.edu/>

The Social Science Research Institute (SSRI) promotes interdisciplinary research that addresses complex national and international social issues and critical social needs. SSRI fosters communication and collaboration across the social sciences, enhances interdisciplinary networking and provides research consultation, support & accessible research services.

Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program (PennTAP)

Penn State Outreach

<http://www.penntap.psu.edu/>

PennTAP supports technology-based economic development by helping Pennsylvania companies improve competitiveness by providing a limited amount of free technology assistance to help resolve specific technical needs. Over the last five years, PennTAP clients reported 3,670 jobs created/retained; \$180 million in economic benefits; and 99-percent satisfaction.

E. Health and Health Care

Penn State Cancer Institute

College of Medicine, Penn State Hershey

<http://www.hmc.psu.edu/cancer/>

The Penn State Cancer Institute delivers cancer services throughout central and eastern Pennsylvania. The Institute's mission includes clinical care, research, education and community outreach. The Penn State Cancer Institute brings the benefits of cancer-related research and education at Penn State's College of Medicine to the care of patients at Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, Lehigh Valley Hospital and Health Network Cancer Services in Allentown, and Mount Nittany Medical Center in State College. Together, more than 5,800 new cancer patients yearly are treated through the Institute's facilities. Services are also provided at Lewistown Hospital, a Cancer Institute affiliate member, along with the Wyoming Valley Health Care System and Susquehanna Health, our most recent affiliates.

Penn State Diabetes Center

College of Health and Human Development, University Park

<http://www.hmc.psu.edu/diabetes/>

Penn State Diabetes Center (PSDC) is a collaboration of scientists, health care providers, patients and friends whose continued goal is to increase the scientific and medical knowledge needed to eradicate diabetes and help those with diabetes to live better lives. Through research, health education, treatment, and professional development the PSDC envisions itself as being a center of excellence in the prevention and control of diabetes.

Pennsylvania – Delaware Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program

College of Medicine, Penn State Hershey

www.paahec.org

The Pennsylvania Area Health Education Center is a program committed to providing primary health care needs to the people of the Commonwealth. This statewide program meets these needs by increasing access to primary health care services; improving access to quality of life, advancing access to health promotion and disease prevention; and providing access to a health professions workforce through development, recruitment and retention. The mission of the Pennsylvania Area Health Education Center Program is to help communities meet their primary health care needs by creating a statewide infrastructure bridging community and academic resources in order to facilitate the recruitment and retention of primary care providers in underserved communities through educational and training programs; develop an information and communication network to provide consultation, technical assistance, education and other professional support for community-based primary care practitioners; increase the number of individuals from minority and underserved communities and populations who enter primary care and allied health professions; and evaluate and assess the public health needs of communities within and among the regions and provide innovative, multi-disciplinary responses to those needs.

Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health

College of Health and Human Development, University Park

Penn State Outreach and Penn State Cooperative Extension

<http://porh.psu.edu/>

The Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health (PORH) was formed in 1991 and is located at The Pennsylvania State University. PORH is administratively located within the Department of Health Policy and Administration in the College of Health and Human Development and is affiliated with Penn State Outreach and Penn State Cooperative Extension. PORH is unique in that it is one of nine university-based State offices of rural health and is one of the few to be closely aligned with a land-grant university. PORH has long-term and very close collaborative relationships with the State Department of Health and other State-wide organizations and agencies. The vision of the Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health is to be the premier rural health leadership organization in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and to be one of the most effective State Offices of Rural Health in the nation. PORH's mission is to enhance the health status of rural Pennsylvanians through education, outreach, advocacy, applied research and special programs and projects. PORH's activities are based on the guiding principles of social responsibility, commitment, cooperation, honesty, and integrity. Our actions are collaborative, proactive, and nonpartisan. During its 15 years of operation, PORH has built a reputation as being the one stop shop for information on any topic related to rural health issues in the state and nationally. PORH's areas of expertise focus on rural health initiatives, agricultural health and safety, and community and economic development.

F. Natural Resources

Environment and Natural Resources Institute College of Agricultural Sciences, University Park

<http://enri.cas.psu.edu>

Our mission is to improve understanding and management of living systems, landscapes, and human-environment interactions with the objective of sustaining and enhancing ecosystem services and human well-being.

Land Analysis Lab College of Agricultural Sciences, University Park

<http://lal.cas.psu.edu/>

The Land Analysis Lab (LAL) specializes in the use of GIS and related advanced geospatial / information system technologies for environmental assessment, agriculture, land management and planning.

Penn State Cooperative Wetlands Center College of Earth and Mineral Sciences, University Park

<http://www.geog.psu.edu/wetlands/>

The mission of the Penn State Cooperative Wetlands Center (CWC) is to conduct, facilitate, and coordinate interdisciplinary research, monitoring and training regarding wetlands and related resources, with an emphasis on Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern states.

Penn State Institutes of Energy and the Environment Office of the Senior Vice President for Research, University Park

<http://www.environment.psu.edu/>

The mission of the Penn State Institutes of Energy and the Environment is to expand Penn State's capacity to pursue the newest frontiers in energy and environmental research by encouraging cooperation across disciplines and the participation of local, state, federal, and international stakeholders. We are the central coordinating structure for energy and environmental research, education, and outreach at Penn State; a dynamic, tightly coupled, intercampus network of expertise and infrastructure recognized worldwide as a seedbed of knowledge and ingenuity needed to deal with energy and environmental challenges; and a novel partnership between Penn State administration and faculty designed to increase the visibility and stature of Penn State programs in the energy and environmental arena. We were conceived to empower faculty to develop and maintain strong competitive standing in the face of major shifts in environmental research toward clear objectives that include improved quality of life, promotion of human health and safety, creation of sustainable economic vitality, and protection of national security. Our three main charges are to be an organization that facilitates research and teaching on a set of major themes of significant challenge and societal interest; a management structure that engages all of the major colleges involved in environmental research and teaching; and promote and ensure interdisciplinary collaboration and coherent environmental programs across Penn State through new faculty hires, infrastructure development, and intellectual discourse.

G. Safety

Justice and Safety Institute The College of the Liberal Arts, University Park

<http://www.jasi.outreach.psu.edu/>

The Pennsylvania State University Justice and Safety Institute (JASI) was formed in 1971 to meet the professional development needs of law enforcement and public safety professionals. Since then, hundreds of municipal, county, state, and Federal police agencies have entrusted the training of more than 3,000 law enforcement professionals to the Institute. Today, in addition to specialized programs for law enforcement officials, the Institute operates the Pennsylvania Deputy Sheriff Academy and family and domestic relations programs. The Institute's mission is to provide educational and training programs, related consulting services, and research that enables clients to serve more effectively their increasingly diverse constituencies. Programs are comprehensive, but provided in a streamlined format, so that professionals do not have to be away from their workplace any longer than necessary. For the convenience of our customers, all of the Institute's programs are available through public programs—open enrollment; co-sponsored programs—open enrollment, but local organizations that agree to serve as co-hosts receive

special considerations; contracted programs—enrollment restricted to members of the contracted organization; and consulting services—expert on-site consulting services.

H. Special Populations

Center for Organizational Research and Evaluation

School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

<http://www.pserie.psu.edu/core/index.htm>

The Center for Organizational Research & Evaluation (CORE) is located at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College. Through the generosity of Susan H. Hagen CORE was established in 1998 to provide research, evaluation, and proposal development services to teen pregnancy prevention providers. The Center has broadened the original focus of teen pregnancy prevention to encompass healthy youth development. CORE is dedicated to achieving excellence in client services through an ongoing commitment to education, research, and the community.

Central Pennsylvania Center for Excellence on Pregnancy Outcomes

College of Medicine, Penn State Hershey

http://www.womenshealthcoe.psu.edu/center_about.htm

The Central Pennsylvania Center of Excellence (COE) for Research on Pregnancy Outcomes is a multi-organizational and multidisciplinary project to reduce disparities in adverse pregnancy outcomes. Funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Health with non-formula tobacco settlement funds, this collaborative four-year project partners four organizations in Central Pennsylvania -- The Pennsylvania State University, Family Health Council of Central Pennsylvania, Franklin and Marshall College, and Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania. The center's primary goal will be to improve women's health status and health care prior to conception in high-risk, medically-underserved populations in Central Pennsylvania with a special focus on rural areas.

Drug Resistance Strategies Project

The College of the Liberal Arts, University Park

<http://drugresistance.la.psu.edu/>

The Drug Resistance Strategies Project is about how and why adolescents use alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs and what to do to prevent substance use.

The Interinstitutional Consortium for Indigenous Knowledge

College of Education, University Park

<http://www.ed.psu.edu/icik/>

The Interinstitutional Consortium for Indigenous Knowledge, known as ICIK, is located in the College of Education at The Pennsylvania State University. ICIK, is part of a global network comprised of more than 20 indigenous knowledge resource centers in North and South America, Europe, Asia, Africa and Oceania. ICIK is the only currently active indigenous knowledge resource center located in the United States. At Penn State, ICIK is a network that promotes communication among community residents, students, university faculty and staff from across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who share an interest in diverse local knowledge systems and would like to engage with communities that generate locally-useful knowledge to enable their survival in a rapidly globalizing society. ICIK maintains a list-serve, a Web site and a resource library, sponsors seminars, conferences and workshops and produces an indigenous knowledge book series. ICIK also encourages collaborative research that addresses issues of community scholarship and transformation of the academy to embrace both outreach to, and in-reach from, local communities.

Northern Appalachia Cancer Network

College of Medicine, Penn State Hershey

http://www.hmc.psu.edu/cancer/outreach_education/community/NACN.htm

The goal of the Northern Appalachia Cancer Network (NACN) is to measurably reduce cancer-related health disparities in medically underserved rural communities of Pennsylvania and New York. NACN seeks to achieve this goal by bringing academicians, health care providers, and community members together to develop, test and evaluate community-based interventions. The targeted cancer sites are the colon and rectum, as well as the lung, cervix and female breast.

NACN provides community-based interventions at multiple levels. First, the foundation of NACN is ten community cancer coalitions representing 14 rural counties in Pennsylvania and New York. These coalitions are continuing

their previous participation in the Appalachian Leadership Initiative on Cancer and the Appalachia Cancer Network. From 2001 to 2005, the coalitions completed more than 1,147 community-based interventions which screened at least 6,845 rural, low-income individuals for breast, cervical, prostate and colorectal cancers. Coalitions select approaches that are appropriate for their community. NACN is also assisting community hospitals, partnerships and coalitions develop a local plan and resource guide to enhance the quality of life for colorectal cancer survivors in their community. Also, NACN is conducting focus groups with couples to gather information that will be used to develop and test a family-based intervention to reduce the risk of colorectal cancer from obesity in rural communities. To improve colorectal cancer screening by primary care providers, NACN has proposed to test academic detailing with primary care providers in several rural communities.

Penn State Rural Women's Health Initiative
College of Medicine, Penn State Hershey
College of Agricultural Sciences, University Park
College of Health and Human Development, University Park

The Penn State's Rural Women's Health Initiative (RWHI) is an interdisciplinary collaboration between the Penn State's Colleges of Agricultural Sciences, Health and Human Development, and Medicine, its Outreach and Cooperative Extension unit, and the Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health. Since its inception in 1998, the Initiative's mission has been to improve the quality of health for women of all ages living in rural areas by (1) focusing local, state, and national attention on the health needs of rural women and their families, (2) enhancing the knowledge and skills of the professionals who provide their health care and, (3) disseminating to rural women, relevant, timely, and useful health information. The Initiative has coordinated five national conferences focused on rural women's health and wide range of in-state programs.