

Remembering Past *Galaxy* Conferences — Memories from Members

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As we approach this year's *Galaxy III Conference*, several of our members have shared their reminiscences of previous *Galaxy* conferences they attended. If you have never attended a *Galaxy* conference, make *Galaxy III* your first. If you have attended before, we hope you will join us again this year!

Linda Wells, affiliate president from New Mexico writes:

"The mission of the *Galaxy II Conference* held September 21-25, 2003 in Salt Lake City, Utah, was to present ourselves as a unified group of Extension professionals who are a viable and responsive force dealing with people's needs, opportunities and challenges in the 21st century.

The mission of my *Galaxy II* experience was definitely fulfilled and even could be termed "out of this world" (a little galactic humor) . . . because it meant so much to me on a personal and professional basis.

The following are highlights that made the experience very special for me . . .

- Having the opportunity to **network** with professionals from the **five** sponsoring organizations who represented their respective states & organizations with pride & dignity was certainly a highlight of my *Galaxy* experience.
- **Presenting** a concurrent seminar on *Kitchen Creations: A Cooking School for People With Diabetes* allowed New Mexico to share a program that is vitally important nationwide. **Learning** new and innovative ways for program implementation from so many other great presentations during the conference.
- **Receiving** a Western Region Professional Development Award in the Florence Hall category on behalf of our statewide program efforts. **Gaining** new perspectives toward the overall awards process for future applications.
- **Participating** in the Exhibitor Seminars and Exhibits that assist in strengthening our programs in so many ways throughout the year.
- **Enjoying** the beauty and splendor of the host state with various tours and activities with new friends and colleagues.

If you are asked the question - will you be attending the *Galaxy III Conference*? - I hope you will definitely answer *yes!* I know it will be great!

Participants can expect to receive a wealth of opportunities and offerings toward professional development through workshops, seminars, networking, tours, activities, and conversations. The value is priceless and the rewards are tremendous! Experience it for yourself and you will see that it can be . . . *out of this world!*"

Lisa D. Jordan, FCS and EFNEP Agent from Georgia recalls:

"I attended my first *Galaxy Conference* in Salt Lake City, Utah. The conference was exceptional and seeing the Mormon Tabernacle Choir was an unbelievable experience. *Galaxy* provided opportunities to network with Extension professionals in all discipline areas, increase knowledge in an assortment of topics, and provided new ideas for collaboration. I am excited about this year's theme: *Strengths, Diversity, and Unique Qualities*. Georgia has quite a diverse population and we all are searching for unique ideas for serving the people of our state."