

Are you attending the Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD) conference?

Susan Routh (OK), PILD Conference Co-Chair

The Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) is pleased to announce that registration for the 2024 Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD) conference is now open. **PILD is scheduled for April 15 to 17, 2024, at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City at Regan National Airport, Arlington, Virginia.** The conference aims to:

- **Increase understanding of public policy issues**
- **Build support for Extension**
- **Strengthen partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies**



The conference is open to all Association members, including state Association officers. Additionally, the PILD experience includes participation in various collaborative activities.

NEAFCS members are encouraged to attend PILD. The Association will offer a limited number of registration scholarships to members, more information will be emailed out this spring about the application process. The Association meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 16 in the afternoon before an evening out with Association members. If you plan to attend PILD and participate in the Capitol Hill visits, you are requested to arrange appointments for Capitol Hill visits by contacting your state Extension Program Director to gain approval. **Participants should request and arrange these appointments before traveling to the conference.** These appointments are not made nor coordinated by JCEP or the PILD team.

Why should NEAFCS members attend PILD?

Oklahoma State University Associate Vice President and Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Director, Dr. Damona Doye, was asked about the value of attending PILD and participating in the Hill visits by Oklahoma Extension professionals. Dr. Doye stated, **"From pre-conference events to the Congressional visits, I found the PILD experience to be a great one for our state delegation of educators who are leaders in their professional associations. They gained valuable perspectives on the federal Extension partnerships, priorities and funding. And they had an opportunity to share how their educational work helps Oklahomans and provides a great return on the federal investment with some of our Congressional delegation and staff."**

Dr. Jorge Atiles, Dean of Extension and Engagement and Director of West Virginia University Extension state, "I value participating at the PILD conference each year. I find it not only useful to deans and directors but also a tremendous opportunity for state and county extension personnel to learn about the process of funding Extension at the federal level. It also teaches accountability for said funds as we visit our legislators and share how we put the funding to work. When we also coincide with 4-H Hill Visits, then we can underscore how important Extension is to the future of our nation."

More information about registration and the conference is located on the JCEP website at www.jcep.org.