

PILD Conference & Why Impact Statements are Important

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This April I had the pleasure of attending the Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD) Conference in Washington DC on behalf of

Impact 2024
at a glance

NEAFCS

Kentucky belongs to a nationwide network of Family and Consumer Sciences educators impacting families and communities with research based knowledge. These are our contacts.

Food Safety	1,696,936
Financial Management	1,364,489
Diabetes Prevention & Management	4,068
Disaster Preparedness	3,940,585
Community Health & Wellness	480,236
Family Stability & Vitality	277,856
Childhood Obesity Prevention	178,345
Food & Nutrition	11,907,344
Healthy Homes & Environments	9,302
FCS & STEM Science, Technology, Engineering & Math	20,206

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NEAFCS. The PILD conference is an opportunity for Cooperative Extension professionals to visit Capitol Hill and share our impact with representatives, but it is so much more. I had the opportunity to visit cross-disciplinary concurrent sessions and learn about what other states are doing not only in FCS but also in 4-H and Agriculture. There were network opportunities as well, but **I think the thing that left a mark on me was that despite being a second-generation Extension professional, PILD gave meaning to things I didn't even know I didn't know.** It allowed me to better understand the big picture of Cooperative Extension and feel a part of the greater good.



When I returned from PILD I had two colleagues ask me **why should they contribute to the NEAFCS impact statements.** I told them about PILD and how it is an opportunity to address funding for our programs on a large scale and again they said, "well why do I need to submit impact statements to NEAFCS, how does that demonstrate local impact?" When you look at the number of people who have been impacted by FCS' reach collectively through NEAFCS' Impact statements its eye-opening. When you meet with a local representative why not take the NEAFCS Impact Statement along and say to them, "this is what we do nationally in my profession, and we have a lot to offer". I'm sure it will WOW that representative, so utilize the Impact Statements by carrying them along to explain what we do or email them to people and represent our wow factor!

The marketing committee did an incredible job making info graphics for all of the impact statements. Be sure to check them out and use them to promote NEAFCS member's hard work! Many thanks to the committee members and the chairs of all three committees for doing such great work!

If you have questions, concerns, or comments about public affairs, contact Christine at zellers@njaes.rutgers.edu