

Epsilon Sigma Phi



The Cooperative Extension Professionals' Organization

Your Key to Professional Excellence

Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP) is dedicated to:

- fostering excellence in the Cooperative Extension System
- developing the Extension profession and professional

Epsilon Sigma Phi, the National Honorary Extension Fraternity, was founded in 1927

The organization unites all Cooperative Extension Service professionals and retirees to:

- Build support for the Cooperative Extension System
- Promote and secure resources which will enhance professionalism
- Develop a spirit of fellowship and develop effective working relationships

ESP Opportunities... Increase Your Professional Value

- Improve skills as an educator/presenter/leader
- Enhance leadership abilities through committee membership and professional development opportunities at local, regional and national levels
- Share experience, expertise and scholarly activity
- Expand network of colleagues and resources

Your Unique ESP Benefits Package

- Professional Scholarships
- Mini-grants
- Recognition Program—State, Regional, National
- Partnerships with JCEP and CSREES-USDA
- Retiree and Life Member Support through Legislative Activities
- Quarterly ESP Connection Newsletter

INVEST IN Yourself, Your Career, and Your Profession

- Explore state and national leadership opportunities
- Showcase model programs at local, regional and national conferences
- Promote the Cooperative Extension System
- Mentor and Network with colleagues

Epsilon Sigma Phi offers:

- Scholarships and Mini-Grants
 - Encourage professional development
- Recognition Opportunities
 - Recognize program excellence on the state, regional and national levels
- Professional Development
 - Sponsors national and regional conferences, and workshops using the latest technology
- Political Support
 - Builds political support with decision makers on issues affecting employee benefits and legislation affecting Extension

Scholarships

- Richard R. Angus Professionalism
 - Encourages, stimulates and supports professional development through participation in courses, seminars or workshops.
 - Four \$500 scholarships available
- Public Issues Leadership Development Conference Scholarships
 - One \$600 scholarship per region is available for members who have never attended the PILD conference, held annually in Washington D.C.
- Professional Development Mini Grants
 - Up to \$1,000 for projects that enhance professionalism in the Extension System – maximum of 4 grants annually

Scholarships

- **Administrative Leadership**
 - Supports unit administrator attending ESP National Conference
 - Must be first timer and ESP member
 - Four \$500 scholarships available
- **Reduced Registration Fee For Life/Retiree Members**
 - Reduced registration for ESP National Conference
 - Number available and value of reduction will vary yearly
- **Scholarship for Concurrent Session Presenters at National ESP Conference**
 - \$250 per concurrent session presentation at conference

National ESP Recognition

- **Distinguished Service Ruby Award**
 - Recipients have demonstrated outstanding national program leadership and have been in the system for more than 20 years
 - Recognized as the highest award given in Extension
- **Friends of Extension**
 - Recognizes volunteers at the national level who have worked to build support for the Extension System

Chapter and Regional ESP Recognition

- **Friends of Extension**
 - Recognizes volunteers who build support for Extension
- **Distinguished Service**
 - Recipients have demonstrated outstanding program leadership for more than 20 years
- **Mid-Career Distinguished Service**
 - Recipients have demonstrated outstanding performance during 10-20 years of service
- **Distinguished Team**
 - Team contributes significantly to state Extension program planning and delivery

Chapter and Regional ESP Recognition (cont.)

- **Distinguished International Service**
 - Recipient must have made significant contribution to international programs
- **Early Career**
 - Recipients have demonstrated outstanding ability to deliver Extension programs in first ten years of service
- **Administrative Leadership**
 - Recipients have shown noteworthy administrative performance during 10 or more years of county, regional, state, program department or national leadership.
- **Continued Excellence**
 - Recipients have shown continued leadership initiative and excellence in program or administration on the state, regional, or national level. Given five years after receiving the DSA.

Chapter and Regional ESP Recognition (cont.)

- Diversity/Multicultural (Team & Individual)
 - Recipients have implemented innovative programming which reinforces the organization's commitment to reaching diverse audiences.
- Visionary Leadership Recognition
 - Recipient has enabled Extension to anticipate emerging needs and develop support to implement relevant programs

Chapter Recognition

- Meritorious Support Services
 - Recipients are support staff who have demonstrated significant support for Extension programs
- Retiree Service
 - Recipient must be an Extension retiree who continues to contribute to the mission and programs of Extension
- 25 Year Tenure of Service
 - Recognition of ESP members with 25 years of employment in the Extension System
- Retirement Recognition
 - Recognition of ESP members at the time of retirement from the Extension System

ESP National Conference

- Presentations by nationally known speakers and ESP members
- Distinguished Service Ruby Lecture
- Annual Meeting of National Council and National Committees
- National and Regional Recognition Banquet
- Some travel stipends available
- Rotates among the four regions of the country
- Fall of every year
- Registration posted on ESP Website: <http://espnational.org>

Other Professional Development

- Public Issues Leadership Development
 - Opportunity to learn methods of impacting public policy, talk with members of Congress and enhance leadership skills
 - Washington, DC
 - April of Every Year
 - Four \$600 Scholarships available to first-timers
- JCEP Regional Workshops
 - Opportunity to network with Extension colleagues and learn more about the ESP organization to provide stronger chapter leadership
 - January/February of Each Year
 - Rotates within the region
 - \$300 Travel Stipend for each chapter

Join Today!

To learn more about Epsilon Sigma Phi,
contact us at:

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