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| Zoom | <https://csulb.zoom.us/j/89635586564?pwd=7vvvVLeFTEZxRl16TMXslZIOcOxwrs.1> (Passcode: NC2172) |
| Access Code |  |
| Project web site | https://www.nimss.org/projects/18455  |
| Project list-serv | nc2172@lyris.nifa.usda.gov **(NEEDS UPDATING)** |
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**Meeting Date: Thursday, March 27, 2025, 9:00 am – ??? p.m. CT**

**1. Roll Call**

Swarn Chatterjee – University of Georgia

Soo Hyun Cho– California State University, Long Beach

Will Davis – Mississippi State University

Sharon DeVaney – Purdue University, Emeritus

Jared Gars – University of Florida

Tim Griesdorn – University of the Incarnate Word

Michael Gutter – Virginia Tech

Wookjae Heo – Purdue University

Jiyun Kang - Purdue University

Kyoung (KT) Kim – University of Alabama

Elizabeth Kiss – Kansas State University

Ally Lee – Purdue University

Jae Min Lee – Minnesota State University-Mankato

Yi Liu – St. John Fisher

Bidisha Mandal – Washington State University

Travis Mountain – University of Georgia

Congrong Ouyang – Kansas State University

Nilton Porto – University of Rhode Island

Lorna Saboe-Wounded Head - South Dakota State University

Mark Schafer – LSU

Tapiwa Sigauke – University of Illinois

Becky Smith – Mississippi State University

Brandan Wheeler – Alabama A&M University

Sheri Worthy – Mississippi State University

Yilan Xu - University of Illinois

Rui Yao – University of Missouri

Yu (Yulia) Zhang – Kansas State University

**Committee Members in Attendance:**

Swarn Chatterjee – University of Georgia

Soo Hyun Cho– California State University, Long Beach

Sharon DeVaney – Purdue University, Emeritus (Zoom)

Tim Griesdorn – University of the Incarnate Word

Wookjae Heo – Purdue University (Zoom)

Carrie Johnson – North Dakota State University

Jiyun Kang - Purdue University (Zoom)

Nilton Porto – University of Rhode Island

Lorna Saboe-Wounded Head - South Dakota State University

Brandan Wheeler – Alabama A&M University (Zoom)

Sheri Worthy – Mississippi State University (Zoom)

Rui Yao – University of Missouri

**Current Committee Members not in Attendance:**

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Connection and Networking**
	1. Thank you to Tim for making this annual meeting possible at the University of Incarnate Word in San Antonio, TX
	2. Does anyone have any adjustments to the agenda? (None)
	3. This meeting is the second time we have tried a virtual meeting – For those in attendance, they will plan to join the zoom session and mute themselves, except when speaking
3. **Purpose and Goals for the Meeting**
	1. NC 2172 Objectives
		1. Understanding family and consumer financial and health decisions under economic uncertainties.
		2. Identifying personal or household characteristics and other contextual factors contributing to household financial and/or health decisions and well-being.
		3. Assessing the role of financial capability and healthcare access on household decision-making and well-being.
		4. Applying the framework of behavioral economics to inform policy making to improve household well-being.
	2. We can regularly invite our colleagues to share their academic journeys, as all of our guest speakers shared great insights
		1. As we take on more leadership roles, it can help to share the importance of personal finance/financial well-being
		2. We are very service oriented and create a lot of credit hours for universities without the benefits of the large grant funding opportunities
		3. As leaders, you will have to make decisions that you do not agree with personally, but you can see the reason for why it needs to be made
4. **Report from Administrative Advisor (Carrie Johnson, Ph.D., North Dakota State University)**
	1. Keith Harris, USDA/NIFA (national program leader) responded to her request about any updates
	2. Pause on all grant funding from NIFA – no date or timeframe for when they will resume
	3. Multi-state meetings will continue to be approved
	4. Annual reports will still be reviewed
	5. New Director of NIFA – Jay Handy (background in FFA and Ag Ed)
	6. No funding at this point
	7. Uncertain about what programs will be cut
	8. Reviewing all RFPs to make sure they align with the current administration’s agenda (Some have been resumed after a review)
	9. For the upcoming annual report:
		1. Make sure the language aligns with the current administration’s agendas
		2. Financial capability, workforce development, entrepreneurship, health prevention are key objectives they are looking for
5. **Guest Speaker #1 (Sheri Worthy, Ph.D., Professor & Director, School of Human Sciences, Mississippi State University)**
	1. Sheri prepared a handout with points to consider
	2. Leadership in academia is more needed than ever before
	3. People need someone they can look towards that will be calm and a good decision making
	4. Background in marketing and consumer economics
	5. First position out of school was at Mississippi State University, where she also met her husband
	6. Find out as much about yourself as possible (Values, strengths, etc.)
	7. Take on volunteer roles before seeking out leadership positions
	8. People and money are the stressors for leadership positions, but they are also the fun aspects of leadership
	9. Keep organized, especially if someone needs to take on your responsibilities
	10. Don’t be too dependent on anyone, as that person may not be available for everything
	11. Know your reasons for wanting a position and seek out your own inspiration
	12. You need a strong support system – When you confide in someone, this person needs to be at a similar level as you
	13. Don’t burn bridges
	14. Know and practice good decision-making strategies
	15. $42 million in grant funding each year
	16. She has 47 direct reports to her (which takes quite a bit of time with annual reviews)
	17. Obtain full professor before taking on upper-level administration
	18. Do not skip department head role – It will teach you so much about how the university operates and will prepare you for upper-level positions
	19. Seek out leadership training opportunities (highly recommends LEAD 21)
	20. Participate in a faculty mentoring program
	21. She provides a list of her favorite leadership books in the handout – Some are directed at women, but they apply to everyone
	22. Questions:
		1. From Nilton – He found the childcare was hardest to manage – Does she notice a difference in leadership approach when dealing with faculty vs. child care center employees, etc.?
			1. She tries to be consistent and transparent and open regardless of who they are
			2. She invites staff and faculty to all meetings
			3. Some situations will have to be handled differently as they have different goals, etc.
			4. You spend the majority of time with staff, especially those that work directly with you (day-to-day rapport)
			5. You see faculty more rarely (more professional approach)
			6. Regardless of position, you will get people that use their education/experience will move onto another position
		2. From Tim – All leaders have someone they report to as well. So you get pressure from both sides. Staff need assistance, and you have limited resources from the top down. What do you do to manage this issue?
			1. You get a lot of information from the top down and pushback from below
			2. MSU requested people to remove the pronouns from their emails – some faculty got offended by the request
			3. She is trying to put in better procedures on how money is spent and requested
			4. You might have money, but the money is not in the right accounts – Funds can be limited to specific purposes – Faculty need to be aware of these purposes and how the money can be used
		3. From Jiyun – From her experience as graduate coordinator, her biggest challenge was the unexpected emails, etc. she had to receive. What advice does Sherry have on how to address the unpredictability? How does she manage stress in general?
			1. You can never know what will happen
			2. Meetings are often negative topics – so try to get an idea of what the meeting will be about
			3. Listen to the person and tell them you need to think about and get back to them – Don’t make rash decisions or say things you will regret saying
			4. The unpredictability can also make it special
			5. Set time aside for yourself and what you need to accomplish
			6. Be as prepared for the meetings that are coming
			7. Always prioritize your sleep and when you eat
			8. Get some kind of physical exercise during the day (walk, etc.)
			9. Try to turn it off when you are home
			10. She has times when she wakes up at night and finds herself overthinking the situation
		4. From Tim - Do you try to raise funds with donors and businesses as well to get additional funds you can use to help solve smaller issues?
			1. Yes – UGA had a specific process on how to raise funds
			2. Faculty and department heads developed relationships, but passed it onto the development people
			3. At MSU, she works with the development people without direct requests
		5. From Swarn – He thanks Sheri for the great work she did at UGA and for helping to build up that program
			1. Every job is going to have problems but you can also find a lot of positives at any job
		6. Additional thoughts (primarily from the handout)
			1. Seek out inspiration and mentorship
			2. Take on leadership opportunities – They often are short term and something you can step away from
			3. She really likes the AskaManager website
6. **2023-2028 Project Review and Ongoing Project & Small Group Assignment**
	1. We will need to submit an annual report, due 60 days after the annual meeting
	2. Request that everyone submit their outputs for the previous year (September 2024-August 2025)
	3. We will want to start brainstorming our next 5 year objectives
	4. Wells Fargo dataset
		1. Quite a few projects have come from this dataset with several still ongoing
		2. Soo and a student have a revise and resubmit with JFCP using this data
	5. Food Insecurity and financial literacy:
		1. Presented about the data at AFCPE
		2. A team (Lorna and others) will be reconnecting about continuing with a project using this data (they met once after AFCPE)
		3. There were some questions about how food insecurity was worded
		4. Some researchers are not as interested in COVID-related topics, so remove any references to COVID
		5. Swarn (???) volunteered to review the manuscript, due to his own research on food insecurity
	6. Financial Well-Being paper
		1. Tim has a revise and resubmit with journal of family and consumer sciences research
		2. They have 30 days to make the revisions, but Tim will not have the time to address these revisions – He is inviting someone to take on these responsibilities for him
		3. CFPB Financial well-being questions linked to the Wells Fargo data to create a proxy for financial well-being
		4. There has been some pushback using this proxy variable approach, although some other journals have accepted this approach
		5. Lorna can help look at it
	7. Wells Fargo data
		1. Sherri and a grad student at UGA (and Yulia Zhang) – Revise and resubmit with International Journal of Bank Marketing (very minor revisions required)
		2. Self-efficacy and financial behaviors and advice seeking
	8. Journal of Consumer Affairs will have a special issue on well-being and resilience (Swarn)
		1. Closing in September
7. **Business**
8. Officer Election – Chair elect
	1. Brandan began a second term as secretary
	2. We need to nominate a chair elect to help Wookjae and take over for him in two years (the term as chair is also 2 years)
	3. Developing the next 5 year cycle will be an important responsibility
	4. Soo noted that this service has really helped her academic/career progress
	5. Nominations:
		1. Tim Griesdorn (he accepts the nomination, but he prefers a behind-the-scenes position; Perhaps shorten the term to 1 year??? We will need to review the procedures about changing terms)
		2. Yulia Zhang
		3. Tapiwa Sigauke???
		4. Soo will talk to each of the nominees to determine if they are willing to accept the nomination
		5. We will revisit this nomination later this afternoon
9. Meeting Schedule for 2025-2026
10. 2026 Annual Meeting
	1. It can be challenging to get everyone together in an in-person meeting, although there are benefits to meeting in person (progress on projects, etc.)
	2. Monthly meetings are more check-ins to report on projects
	3. The earlier we can start planning, the better it will be
	4. Wookjae will be overseeing the annual meeting next year
	5. Long Beach, San Antonio, Athens (GA) are available for future annual meetings
	6. March/April appears to work for holding the annual meeting
11. **Lunch on Own**
12. **Funding Opportunities (Maria Marshall, Ph.D., Professor and Director, North Central Regional Center for Rural Development)**
	1. She prepared a slide deck presentation
	2. She acknowledged the overlap in the objectives with her project (NC1100) and our project
	3. Current Priorities and Activities
		1. Creating Resilient Communities and Economies
		2. Developing Leadership and Civic Engagement
		3. Promoting Community Health and Wellness
	4. They develop networking and collaboration across the 32 land-grant institutes
	5. They have a robust webinar series they share on Youtube and email the links to members
	6. They also send out a quarterly newsletter
	7. They maintain a North Central Region database for regional exploration
	8. They sometimes also offer letters of support to promote projects
	9. Grant funding comes from USDA
	10. Projects include:
		1. Recruiting and Retaining in Rural America (rural small business and workforce development, caregiving, housing, placemaking – Making a community home)
	11. Implemented Activities
		1. Small Grants ($25,000 - $40,000)
			1. Research, Extension, or both
			2. State-specific focus or regional focus
			3. Must be focused on rural populations
			4. Advisory Board and Advisory Committee makes the decisions regarding grant proposals
			5. Can be used to collect data or as seed funding for getting larger grants
		2. Extension Implementation Grant ($5,000)
			1. Designed for extension educators that want to pilot an existing program or to be trained in an existing program already developed from another state
			2. Not designed for research purposes
		3. Faculty Fellows ($25,000)
			1. You are working as an expert and can move the area forward in that region
			2. All data is open-access
			3. Current projects examine caregiving and using AI within housing
			4. Faculty and Staff are both eligible
		4. Working Groups ($50,000 over 3 years)
			1. Groups from multiple states working together on a regional issue
			2. Funds are often used for travel to meet together
			3. Funds are not for research assistants
			4. Think of the working group as a multi-state project
		5. NCR-Stat Database
	12. NC1100: A Systems Perspective to Community Resilience: Rural Healthcare at the Intersection of Households and Businesses
		1. Multi-State Project is attached to the center
		2. Several of our members are also members of the NC1100 group (Wookjae and Jae-Min))
		3. This project has funding to do some projects
		4. Collaboration with the two groups is beneficial for both and for the Multi-State purposes
	13. Datasets (open-access)
		1. NCR-Stat: Baseline Survey 2022
			1. Social and economic data at the household level
			2. Codebooks are well organized making using the data easier to use
			3. Lorna sent out a slide deck about the NCR-Stat Dataset from 2022
		2. NCR-State Caregiving Survey
		3. NCR-State Small Business Survey
		4. Plan to collect data every 2 years (so another baseline survey was collected in 2024, along with the other regional centers, although one region will be collected in 2025) (Over 14,000 participants across the 3 regions already collected)
		5. If we have questions we want to add to the survey, they are willing to accommodate our request for the 2026 data collection
		6. Datasets can be found in the Purdue University Repository



* 1. Questions:
		1. From Soo - Do you conduct these informational/lesson sessions very often?
			1. They conduct them periodically when they feel information needs to be shared with other groups
			2. They think they need to conduct several additional sessions to determine what areas to focus on in the region
1. **Professional Development (Jinhee Kim, Ph.D., Professor and Assistant Director, University of Maryland Extension)**
	1. She prepared a PowerPoint
	2. Background in Consumer Studies and Resource Management
	3. Served as a FCS Program leader and then Associate Dean/Associate Director
	4. Personal Vision: Fostering the wealth and health of families and communities
	5. Accomplishments as an FCS Leader (2018-2022): Healthier People, Healthier Communities
	6. She takes joy in seeing students, faculty, researchers, and the community succeed
	7. She sought out opportunities for leadership training (LEAD 21, etc.)
	8. Leadership Development
		1. Personal leadership – learning about yourself
		2. Organizational change (Reference: *It Factor Leadership* by Claudia Fernandez)
			1. Success comes from helping others to succeed/fostering adaptive change
			2. Primus inter pares – We are doing things now, but someone will follow us when we step down
		3. System level change
	9. Develop leadership skills (once you obtain them, be sure to share with/mentor the next generation)
	10. It can be hard to drop projects once you take on additional leadership roles, especially if you remain at the same school
	11. Questions:
		1. From Soo – How do you balance things?
			1. Regardless of where we are, things can be stressful and challenging
			2. We all have to prioritize the various demands we have
2. **Small group writing time**
3. **Other Updates**
	1. Yulia had twins recently
	2. Wookjae and his family have COVID right now
	3. Brandan has laryngitis
4. **Adjourn**