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Study finds NW Ohioans share similar concerns, optimistic outlook

Northwest Ohioans have their share of local concerns-economic development and environmental issues, among others-but they're also optimistic that their communities can meet the challenges.

Funding for schools and localities was another common concern expressed during a regional needs assessment conducted BGSU's Center for Policy Analysis and Public Service (CPA&PS). A report on the study was released June 17.

Prepared by the campus-based Institute for Psychological Research and Application (IPRA), the research report documents the findings from the 27-county region served by the center. The research included small focus groups with diverse representation in five northwest Ohio municipalities-Bryan, Bucyrus, Celina, Norwalk and Ottawa-followed by a survey of citizens active in their communities regionwide. The survey addressed issues identified as important in the focus groups.

Each of the five focus-group communities reported having lost at least one major employer in recent years. Recurring themes in the group discussions included loss of jobs-and young people leaving their hometowns to work elsewhere-along with the need for job training. That need was reiterated by survey respondents, who also expressed a desire for help with economic development planning.

Research participants, both in focus groups and the survey, expressed the need for increased cooperation among local governments, as well as more job retraining opportunities, to deal with changing economic realities.

Michael Zickar, psychology faculty member and an IPRA project leader, noted that residents of the region who participated in the focus groups and survey were realistic about the need for change.

Thinking about economic development normally brings manufacturing companies to mind, but smaller communities aren't attracting, or keeping, large manufacturers in the competitive economic environment, Zickar said. Instead, "respondents suggested focusing on niche areas that could establish a sense of regional identity," he said.

But no one can attract business without adequate infrastructure, and some areas of northwest Ohio may not have enough water to support new development, added Christopher Cunningham, one of the BGSU psychology graduate students who facilitated focus-group sessions.

Although farm run-off is seen as a problem in general, the percentage of research participants who were satisfied with water in their area was relatively high, Zickar pointed out. Closer, however, to Lake Erie and in Celina, adjacent to Grand Lake St. Marys, residents are concerned with preserving water, he said.

Zickar said the expression of environmental concerns surprised him because most of the sources probably wouldn't be considered traditional environmentalists. Another facilitator, graduate student Ashley Guidroz, agreed, saying she expected to hear about business and jobs leaving, but not about problems with the environment.

Guidroz was also surprised, she said, with discussion about an aging population and, more specifically, how communities would cope with it in terms of such accommodations as assisted living and public transportation.

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Most respondents were also concerned about funding for schools and with state government's support of their communities in general. But they are proud of their schools and their communities, believing that their local governments are qualified to deal with change and will do so successfully.

"This level of enthusiasm bodes well for northwest Ohio," notes the report, which CPA&PS staff hope can be used by local governments, economic development groups, nonprofit agencies and interested citizens to address needs now and in the future.

Beth Walter Honadle, political science faculty member and director of the center since 1999, commissioned the study to be a valuable strategic planning tool for the center and to inform organizations and governments that serve communities in northwest Ohio.

"This study was designed to learn about the most pressing community needs from a variety of citizen perspectives in northwest Ohio, and it will allow the center and others to take stock of priorities in relation to regional needs," Honadle said.

CPA&PS receives support from the state through its Rural Universities Program. The funding helps the center serve northwest Ohio with educational programs designed to contribute to the region's development. The U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration also funds the center as an EDA University Center.

BGSU active in grant program targeting rural Hispanic meth, inhalant use

It doesn't take long to find statistics that support the need for a drug abuse prevention program involving two BGSU psychologists.

Just this month, the Partnership for a Drug-Free America released results of a nationwide sample indicating that 26 percent of sixth-graders and eighth-graders are experimenting with inhalants. In 1991, that number was 18 percent for sixth-graders and 22 percent for eighth-graders.

In many surveys, says Eric Dubow, psychology, up to 10 percent of students in grades 6-12 are admitting to using inhalants or "designer drugs" such as methamphetamine or Ecstasy that can be manufactured in makeshift laboratories. The figure, he adds, is on the high side of the range among Hispanic youth—the focus of the grant program in which he and Dara Musher-Eizenman, also psychology, are participating.

Their job is to evaluate the effectiveness of education and prevention efforts coordinated by Lucas County's Community Partnership, which has received funding from the federal Center for Substance Abuse Prevention. The dollar amount is \$350,000 per year for three years; the BGSU portion is about \$90,000 over the three-year period.

Although urban Hispanics will be included, too, the program—being piloted locally this summer—is aimed especially at migrant farm workers. Young migrants usually aren't exposed to prevention programs in school because of their transient lifestyle, but are still being exposed to drugs in the rural areas where they work, Dubow and Musher-Eizenman point out. The researchers note that clandestine meth labs are often set up in the country, and because inhalants can include common household items, they may be more easily obtained in rural areas than other drugs.

"It is a growing concern for our community," says Deacon Dzierzawski, executive director of the Community Partnership. The cooperative effort to combat it is the latest in a line of partnership projects assisted by Dubow and Musher-Eizenman, whose expertise "has been vital" to the success of previous programs and helpful in securing federal funding for this one, Dzierzawski says.

Rural Opportunities Inc., a Bowling Green-based assistance program for farm workers,

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and the Ohio Migrant Education Council are among the agencies coordinating the partnership grant, along with the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board of Lucas County and Adelante Inc., a Toledo social service agency.

A major part of the grant program is presentation of drug abuse prevention curricula at the Migrant Rest Center in Liberty Center and in schools run by the migrant education council. Focusing on meth and inhalants, but with attention to general drug resistance skills as well, a retired University of Toledo faculty member, Martha Carroll, is writing the curricula—one for students and one for parents to support what their children are learning about drugs, resistance and related topics.

The idea is to support Hispanic families not only in Lucas and Wood counties, but also in the four counties—Defiance, Fulton, Henry and Williams—that are the destinations of the bulk of migrant workers who come to northwest Ohio, Dubow says. The trick, he continues, is to make the materials consistent with Hispanic culture.

Cultural relevance is among the challenges facing the program, adds Musher-Eizenman. Hispanic culture places more emphasis, for example, on the extended family, which can be an asset, but the question is how to tap into it to enhance prevention efforts, she explains. Staff who will deliver the curricula have received training to that end.

Follow-up with migrant workers may be another challenge, but with many returning to the same places each year and Rural Opportunities and the migrant education council tracking them, the researchers are hopeful they'll be able to do likewise.

"There's a lot of potential in this project to do a lot of good things," says Musher-Eizenman, noting that its success depends upon the participating agencies' cooperation. In addition to targeting about 400 youth and 150 families over three years, the program will train community members such as law enforcement officers, hospital workers and bus drivers to look for signs of meth labs and meth and inhalant use.

As the program attempts to build community awareness of the problem, including how and where to refer a user for help, the BGSU researchers will try to evaluate how effective it is in that regard and in changing attitudes about drug use. Collected data will be reported to the federal government.

Most prevention efforts focus on "gateway" drugs like alcohol, tobacco and marijuana, "but we know there's a growing problem of designer drugs," Dubow says. Among the dangers that need to be recognized are the long-term risks, which many people don't even think exist in the case of inhalants, according to Musher-Eizenman.

Sniffing items such as glue, gasoline, and cleaning and correction fluids can cause not only nausea and vomiting, but also seizures, heart palpitations, permanent brain damage and even death. In the recent Partnership for a Drug-Free America sample, however, only 63 percent of the surveyed eighth-graders believed inhalants could kill them, down from 73 percent only two years ago.

"It's a different type of problem," says Musher-Eizenman, noting that inhalants are as close as a walk to a grocery store. But as with other drugs, prevention is preferable to treatment, so "the more you can get out ahead of this, the better," she says.

Family Campaign nears goal

The University is closing in on its goal of 53 percent participation in the 2004 Family Campaign, according to Amy Davis, director of annual giving. Nearly 52 percent of faculty and staff have now made gifts or pledges. The campaign ends with the conclusion of the fiscal year on June 30, so your gift now could help us reach our goal, she says.

After a recent surge over the past few weeks, employee gifts and pledges totaled \$868,549 as of June 14, Davis said.

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Employee gifts or pledges to any area of BGSU count toward the Family Campaign, including gifts to WBGU-TV, the Falcon Club, and numerous department and scholarship funds. Undirected gifts will go to the Support-a-Scholar fund. You can make your gift online at <http://foundation.bgsu.edu>, contact your department's Family Campaign representative, or call the development office at 2-2424 for more information.

The endorsement of faculty and staff is important to the University in a variety of ways, said Davis. Not only does it immediately benefit students by providing scholarships and additional programming, it also sends a powerful message to potential external donors that BGSU is a worthy recipient.

IN BRIEF**Kids Extravaganza hosted by WBGU-PBS**

WBGU-PBS is holding its third annual Kids Extravaganza—an afternoon of family fun for kids of all ages—from 1-3 p.m. on Saturday (June 26), rain or shine, at the Tucker Center for Telecommunications, 245 Troup St.

Tours of the station and crafts will be going on inside, and the WBGU-PBS studio will be turned into a ZOOM! Zone. A virtual carnival will be going on outside, complete with Moonwalk bouncy inflatables, games, cotton candy, popcorn, snow cones, balloons and more! Local media celebrities will read their favorite children's books in the station's "Share a Story" tent.

Kids can have their picture taken with their favorite PBS characters: Cassie from "Dragon Tales," Cookie Monster from "Sesame Street," Arthur, and Maya, a cast member from "ZOOM!"

WBGU-PBS is a public service of BGSU.

WBGU-PBS to produce 'Ketchup: King of Condiments'

No other condiment has graced the American dinner table as much as ketchup, especially in northwest Ohio, given the area's history with the growing and processing of tomatoes.

Longtime Bowling Green residents know that one brand in particular was popular in this region. Many area residents have fond, and not so fond, memories of the scent of stewing tomatoes wafting through the air on warm summer nights. Ketchup became a part of the psyche of our region, as well as a factor in the local economy.

Our love affair with this "sweet sauce of life" will be examined in a lighthearted, 30-minute documentary to be produced this summer by WBGU-PBS, with the help of area residents.

"We're looking for any kind of archival materials individuals might have of tomato fields, tomato harvesting, of the Heinz Plant," said WBGU-PBS producer Tom Zapiecki. "I'm hopeful someone with a trunk full of footage and photographs will step forward."

The program will trace the history of ketchup—from the declaration by Congress that ketchup was a vegetable to recent reports that salsa has toppled the mighty king (an urban legend).

How did this spicy fish sauce developed by the Chinese become a staple on the American table with such long-lasting appeal? In what ways did the tomato industry affect the growth and development of our region? How exactly is ketchup made? What do people think about it?

It's everything you wanted to know about ketchup, but were afraid to ask.

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"Ketchup: King of Condiments," with your help, will be coming soon to your local public television station, WBGU-PBS.

If you have information you'd like to share, contact Tom Zapiecki at 2-7007 or email zapiecki@wbgu.bgsu.edu.

BG@100 Web site—Your source for information

BG@100—the implementation of new PeopleSoft administrative systems on campus—has established the Web site <http://www.bgsu.edu/BGat100> as a centralized means to provide information about the project.

The Web page provides information about the project's history, the Executive Steering Committee, information item documents, project organization, frequently asked questions, project-related documents and project communications.

The project update information on the home page will be revised monthly; other updates to project Web pages will be completed as relevant.

Those subscribed to the BG@100 listproc will receive an email message outlining project Web page revisions as they are completed. To be added to the listproc, email Cindy Fuller at cfuller@bgsu.edu.

New ElderCollege at BGSU Firelands seeks community leaders

ElderCollege at BGSU Firelands will provide learning experiences for adults from all educational backgrounds who are interested in learning something new, but don't want homework or tests.

As plans are made for the first semester offerings of the ElderCollege this fall, the Steering Committee is looking for individuals interested in leading educational courses and members for the ElderCollege Board of Directors.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be at 1:30 p.m. on June 28 in 1004 Cedar Point Center at BGSU Firelands. The meeting is open to the public.

Topics under consideration for the initial semester courses and workshops include local geology/ecology, Firelands historical and architectural tours, and a series of "Expanding Horizons," including one-day field trips, armchair travel, cooking and cuisine, and history/cultures of the world. Other ideas for courses and workshops are welcome.

For more information, contact the BGSU Firelands Office of College Relations at 2-5560 or email lesleyr@bgnet.bgsu.edu

CALENDAR

Monday, June 21

Dissertation Defense, "An Ethic of Speaking With: Articulating a Politics of Location in Cultural Communication Research," by Amy N. Heuman, communication studies, 11 a.m., 106 University Hall.

Summer Music Institute, Piano Camp faculty recital, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Summer Movie Series, "School of Rock," 9 p.m., Union Theater. Sponsored by the Office of Campus Involvement.

Tuesday, June 22

Summer Music Institute, String Camp faculty recital, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Summer Movie Series, "School of Rock,"

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9 p.m., Union Theater. Sponsored by the Office of Campus Involvement.

Workshop, "Advanced Topics in Statistical Analysis System," 1-2 p.m., 128 Hayes Hall. Sponsored by the Center for Family and Demographic Research.

Wednesday, June 23

Summer Music Institute, Piano Camp guest recital by Rev. Sean Brett Duggan of the University of Michigan, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Summer Movie Series, "School of Rock,"

9 p.m., Union Theater. Sponsored by the Office of Campus Involvement.

Thursday, June 24

Summer Movie Series, "School of Rock," 9 p.m., Union Theater. Sponsored by the Office of Campus Involvement.

Monday, June 28

Summer Movie Series, "Bruce Almighty," 9 p.m., Union Theater. Sponsored by the Office of Campus Involvement.

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FACULTY

Marketing. Assistant Professor (for academic year 2005-06). Call Bob Wu, 2-2041. Deadline: July 19.

Accounting and Management Information Systems. Assistant/Associate Professor (for academic year 2005-06). Call Lawrence Kowalski, 2-2803. Review of applications will begin on Aug. 1 and continue until the position is filled.

Management. Assistant Professor (for academic year 2005-06). Call Janet Hartley, 2-2946. Deadline: Nov. 15.

Contact the Office of Human Resources at 419-372-8421 for information regarding classified and administrative positions. Position vacancy announcements may be viewed by visiting the HR Web site at www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr.

Employees wishing to apply for these positions must sign a "Request for Transfer" form and attach an updated resume or data sheet. This information must be turned in to Human Resources by the job deadline.

CLASSIFIED

View job descriptions at: http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/BGSU_only/

The deadline to apply for the following positions is 1 p.m. Friday, June 25.

Secretary 2 (C-33-Ve)—College of Arts & Sciences. Pay grade 7. Full-time position. This position is being advertised on and off campus:

Computer Operator 1 (C-32-Ve)—Information Technology Services. Pay grade 7. Twelve-month, part-time position.

ADMINISTRATIVE

View job descriptions at: http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/adm_staff/

Manager—Budgets and Operations (R-048)—College of Arts & Sciences. Administrative grade 16. Deadline: June 25.

Project EXCITE Manager (V-046)—College of Health and Human Services. Administrative grade 14. Deadline: June 25.

Applications Developer (V-053)—BG@100 Project. Administrative grade 14. Review of applications will begin July 2 and continue until the position is filled.

Information Manager for Graduate Education and Research (V-060)—Graduate College. Administrative grade 16. Deadline: July 2.

Writing Specialist (V-061)—Academic Enhancement. Administrative grade 12. Deadline: July 9.

Academic Advising Coordinator (04-059NF)—BGSU Firelands Student Services. Administrative grade 13. Deadline: July 16.

Residence Hall Director (V-018)—Office of Residence Life (three positions). Administrative grade 13. Review of

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applications will continue until all positions are filled.

OBITUARY

There were no obituaries this week.