

Danielle Isabelle-Berrien

Torrance County Extension Family and Consumer Sciences / 4-H Agent, Assistant Professor
July 16, 2015 to present
County Extension Faculty
College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences

Curriculum Vitae

Education

Master of Education, Northern Arizona University, 2004. Major: Counseling and Human Relations. Course requirements completed with a 3.92 grade point average.

Bachelor of Science, University of Maine-Farmington, 1982. Major: Home Economics. Course requirements completed with a 3.13 grade point average.

Previous Professional Experience

Career Services Director, Lyndon State College, Vermont, 2013-2015

Counselor, Educational Support Faculty, Pima Community College East Campus, Arizona, 2012-2013

Graduate Program Coordinator, University of Arizona American Indian Studies Program, Arizona, 2010-2012

Adjunct Faculty, Pima Community College West and East Campus, Arizona, 2010-2013

New Student Orientation Coordinator, Pima Community College West Campus, 2010-2011

Counselor, Educational Support Faculty, Pima Community College West Campus, Arizona, 2010

Advising Specialist, University of Arizona Center for Exploratory Students, Arizona, 2005-2008

Academic Advisor, Sr., University of Arizona College of Education, Arizona, 2000-2005

Vocational Home Economics Program Director, United States Peace Corps and St. Martin School, Dominica-West Indies, 1986-1988

Home Economics Teacher, Williamstown Jr. Sr. High School, Vermont, 1984

Home Economics/4-H Intern, Maine Cooperative Extension Service-Oxford and Somerset counties, 1982

Programming

4-H Youth Development

Torrance County's 25.9% poverty rate is higher than both New Mexico (19.5%) and the U.S. (14.9%) (US Census Bureau and State & County Quick Facts). Of the 3100 youth in the county, 40% live in poverty. The Torrance County 4-H Youth Development Program strives to ensure that every youth involved will have the opportunity to participate in 4-H experiences that strengthen a young person's sense of belonging, generosity, independence, and mastery. Through projects and activities in 4-H, youth have many opportunities to develop life and leadership skills that include responsibility, self-confidence, self-esteem, communication skills, teamwork and decision making.

Torrance County has a small number of youth enrolling in home economics projects, due in part to a focus on livestock programs and the lack of club leader knowledge or skills in the home economics projects. The agent taught sewing workshops to one club who is very active in the indoor arts projects. Some of the pillows were submitted for exhibit in the county and state fairs.

The 4-H Family and Consumer Sciences agent, Ag agent, and Program Assistant led a group of 10 4-H members on a visit to the state legislature. The agents collaborated to ensure the members had the opportunity to tour the Round House while learning about NM culture and history and the legislative process. The youth were fortunate enough to sit in on both house and senate sessions as well as visit with two legislators, one being from our district!

The 4-H Family and Consumer Sciences agent, Ag agent, and Program Assistant collaborated on the delivery of a 4-H Council Officers half day training that included delivery of information regarding their roles as 4-H officers in the county, how they could support the council delegates from all 4-H clubs, how to use plan effective meetings and use Parliamentary Procedure. A goal setting and planning session was also facilitated to determine the Council's project priorities. Several officers commented how much they enjoyed the training and learned a lot they didn't know before.

The agent chaperoned two 4-H members at the Home Economics School state event where both were enrolled in the "Style Engineers" track. Both girls indicated that they learned some new things and enjoyed themselves a great deal. In addition, the agent was a co-teacher with agents from San Juan and Bernalillo counties in the "So You Want to a Favorite Foods Contest Star" track. In addition, the agent also assisted the with the "Hand Knotted Pillows" community service project for 4-H members. The agent guided youth in the construction of no-sew fleece pillows to be donated to area hospitals and other agencies.

In June 2017, the agent will be superintendent of the Fashion Revue contest for the Northwest District Contests in Albuquerque.

Home Economics

Efficient management of personal finances and household resources is crucial for Torrance County residents where 26% of the population lives in poverty. Almost half, (49%), of the county's families include parents who lack secure employment due to limited job opportunities.

Given the complex nature of personal finance, the proportion of functionally financial illiterate in New Mexico is estimated to be more than 50%. The area of personal finance itself covers a wide range of topics such as budgeting, savings, spending, investments, retirement planning, credit, mortgage, financing, scams, and taxes.

Five of the leading causes of death in Torrance County include heart and lower chronic respiratory diseases, cancer, stroke, and diabetes, each of which has a link to diet. Limited income residents face numerous challenges associated with inadequate nutrition. Their lack of knowledge of the relationships between health and basic nutrition, food safety and preparation, food resource management, and the importance of physical activity can be addressed with education.

The agent continued a focus on networking with local agencies and organizations to determine priorities and possible collaborations for programming. The agent is in contact with ICAN, Kitchen Creations, New Mexico Children, Youth & Families Department, Torrance County Project Office, HelpNM, the Partnership for a Healthy Torrance County, Estancia and Mountainair Head Start Programs, Care Net, and Bethel Community Storehouse and programs targeted to adults, primarily, were initiated and continue to be developed. These include bringing ICAN back to Torrance County. A Nutrition Educator was hired and has been delivering ICAN programming since the early part of 2017 to venues such as Bethel Store House, WIC, ECHO Commodities, St. Vincent de Paul Mobile Food Pantry, and Mountainair Food Pantry. She continues to search for opportunities to present single and series lessons and plans to include school programming in the coming school year.

As head of the Food Security Committee on the Partnership for a Healthy Torrance Community (PHTC) Council, the agent assisted facilitation of two meetings with interested community members (about 15) in addressing food security in the county. As a result, the group toured two facilities under consideration for further education of county residents in hoop house building and high desert gardening strategies. The agent wrote a newsletter of the group's efforts and contributed to a community food resources listing of food pantries and food producers' resources.

In addition, the agent presented the MyCD Chronic Disease Self-Management Program last fall. There were eight who attended, four of whom completed the program with the minimum four-week attendance. Each of the women who completed indicated changes in behavior and attitude toward better managing their health conditions.

In April/May 2017 a MyCD Diabetes Self-Management Program was presented in Moriarty with nine attendees, all of whom completed the series. Each attendant reported gaining valuable information and support, which they plan to continue with both! A Kitchen Creations Cooking School programs for diabetics, and a series on food preservation are scheduled for the coming months with promotions in newspapers, radio, and print beginning.

Additional programs in food, nutrition and wellness, as well as family finance and resource management, are the main focus in the near future.

Publications

Isabelle-Berrien, D.J. "PHTC Food Security Group Newsletter", Torrance County, New Mexico, 2017.

Isabelle-Berrien, D.J. "PHTC Food Resources Listing", Torrance County, New Mexico, 2017.

Isabelle-Berrien, D.J. "Torrance County 4-H Monthly Newsletter." Torrance County, New Mexico, 2015-2017. (Original and adapted work produced for the use of 4-H members, club leaders, and volunteers)

Isabelle-Berrien, D.J. "2017 Torrance County Fair Calendar." Torrance County, New Mexico, 2017. (Submitted photos, original copy and adapted outlay design prepared for printers)

Isabelle-Berrien, D.J. "2016 Torrance County Fair Calendar." Torrance County, New Mexico, 2016. (Submitted photos, original copy and adapted outlay design prepared for printers)

Berrien, D.J., Mack, B.L. "Our First 4-H Club Meeting." Torrance County, New Mexico, 2016. (Recruitment tool for Mountainair Mustang Wranglers club; adapted from Washington State University Extension 4-H Youth Development Program, Kitsap County)

Professional Presentations and Activities

Cooperative Extension Service

MyCD Diabetes Self-Management Program, April-May 2017

Co-Instructor, Favorite Foods track, Home Economics School, March 2017

Holiday Extravaganza, "White Christmas Mason Jar Luminarias" craft presentation and activity, Valencia County, December 2016

MyCD Chronic Disease Self-Management Program, November-December 2016

Co-host “Tomatoes, Chickens, and Bees” Saturday radio program on KXNM in McIntosh, NM, August 2016-2017

Master Food Preserver Training, “Food Safety” presentation, March 2016, Albuquerque

Holiday Extravaganzas, “Holiday Angel” craft presentation and activity, Valencia and Rio Arriba Counties, December 2015

Civic Groups

Moriarty Rotary Club, “Working Together for our County’s Youth” presentation, December 2015

Trade Organizations and Associations

Chuckwagon CowBelles, “Wills...Preparation Tips and Affordable Resources for one of Life’s Most Important Documents”, June 2017

Chuckwagon CowBelles, “Gluten Free Cooking” presentation and tasting, November 2016

Chuckwagon CowBelles, “Be Mine Valentine” card making presentation and activity, February 2016

New Mexico 4-H Youth Development Program

Superintendent of Fashion Revue contest at Northwest District Contests, June 2017

Co-Instructor, Favorite Foods track, Home Economics School, March 2017

4-H Recruitment, Estancia Elementary and Moriarty Elementary Schools, 2016

District Contests Assistant, Prepared Speech and Favorite Foods Contests, June 2016

State 4-H Conference Contest Assistant, Home Ec Skill-a-thon and Consumer Decision Making, July 2016

New Club Leader Orientation, Mountainair Mustang Wranglers, February 2016

Santa Fe County 4-H Youth Development Program

Record Book Judging, October 2015 (judge for home economics projects)

Committee and Service Involvement

Principal Unit:

New Mexico State 4-H Curriculum Review Committee, Home Economics & Housing, 2016

New Mexico State Small Farm & Ranch Task Force, 2016-2017

New Mexico State 4-H Curriculum Review Committee, Personal Growth and Development, 2015

New Mexico State 4-H Curriculum Review Committee, Creative Arts, 2015

New Mexico Agri-Tourism Conference, Session Moderator, 2015, Albuquerque

State:

New Mexico Northwest District Representative of National Association of Extension 4-H Agents, 2016-2017

New Mexico Northwest District Representative of National Association of Extension 4-H Agents, 2015-2016

Community:

Vice-Chair, Partnership for a Healthy Torrance Community Council, 2017

Family Health and Safety Fair Vendor, 2017, Estancia

Family Health and Safety Fair Vendor, 2016, Moriarty

Serve as a member of the Partnership for a Healthy Torrance County Council, 2016-2017

Regional and National:

NAE4-HA Western Region Awards Judge, 2016 & 2017

Professional Societies and Associations

National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences, 2016-2017

National Association of Extension 4-H Agents (NAE4-HA), member, 2015-2017

Toastmasters International, 2016-2017

Professional Development

Cooperative Extension Service Professional Development

- Money Matters Webinar Training, New Mexico State Extension Family Resource Specialist, 2017
- New Mexico Education Designed to Generate Excellence (NM EDGE) courses, 18 hours, Albuquerque, March 2017
- National Center for Biomedical Research & Training, Managing Food Emergencies: Strategies for a Community Response, Albuquerque, February 2017
- ServSafe Food Handlers Instructor Training, Albuquerque, January 2017
- New Mexico Education Designed to Generate Excellence (NM EDGE) courses, 15 hours, Santa Fe, January 2017
- Ideas for Cooking and Nutrition Training, Bernalillo, November 2015
- 4-H Agent In-Service, Albuquerque, November 2015
- New Mexico Education Designed to Generate Excellence (NM EDGE) courses, 18 hours, Santa Fe, January 2016
- New Mexico Education Designed to Generate Excellence (NM EDGE) courses, 18 hours, Las Cruces, March 2016
- All Extension Conference, Las Cruces, March 2016
- Master Food Preserver Training, 18 hours, Albuquerque, February-March 2016