V(A). Planned Program (Summary)

Program # 5
1. Name of the Planned Program
Youth Voices in Community Action and Governance

V(B). Program Knowledge Area(s)
1. Program Knowledge Areas and Percentage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KA Code</th>
<th>Knowledge Area</th>
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<th>%1890 Extension</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
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V(C). Planned Program (Inputs)
1. Actual amount of professional FTE/SYs expended this Program

<table>
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2. Actual dollars expended in this Program (includes Carryover Funds from previous years)

<table>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
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V(D). Planned Program (Activity)
1. Brief description of the Activity

Training youth and adults: The interdisciplinary Youth Voices in Community Action and Governance Team provides research-based training, educational resources and experiences with participatory democracy and juvenile justice, engaging youth in community decision-making and community governance, working with elected officials to establish youth positions on public boards and standing committees, councils, and teen courts, and training adults on effectively working with youth as partners. Youth gain understanding of how decisions are made and develop skills to plan, organize and communicate effectively.

With Wisconsin Cooperative Extension guidance, trained middle and high school Teen Court jurors hear cases of other school-age youth cited for first time misdemeanors such as shoplifting, truancy or vandalism. Each youth volunteer attends trainings to identify and practice respectful, non-confrontational questioning techniques that clarify the situation. Trained teen court volunteers in turn train their inexperienced peers. Through this train-the-trainer approach, new volunteers including former juvenile offenders learn the importance of their role directly from youth already participating. Compared with traditional juvenile courts, far fewer of those held accountable by their peers will reappear for later offenses.

Building support for youth representatives in local government: County issue statements developed across Wisconsin emphasized the need for young people to become active and productive citizens. Stakeholders identified engaging youth in...
decision-making as a way to tackle community problems and build capacity among both adults and youth to take on leadership roles. County educators and the state 4-H office received many inquiries about models and support for adding youth voices to county boards. Wisconsin Cooperative Extension is working with county boards, city councils and their committees to include youth representation in a growing number of counties. For example, 14 high school students have served as youth representatives or alternates on the Washburn County Board of Supervisors with 21 elected officials. Youth cast advisory votes and serve on standing committees for 1 year. Evaluation results led to expansion of youth representation to Burnett County.

The Washburn County evaluation report was used in a presentation to Burnett County board members as evidence for the kind of impact they could expect. Burnett County added youth to their board in 2009 with Langlade and Marquette, joining Douglas, Kenosha, Oneida, Washburn, and Waupaca counties in creating opportunities for youth to join county boards and committees and to cast advisory or actual votes. Evaluation results have also been shared with the Wisconsin Counties Association, Northern District Extension staff and other colleagues. A website shares practical program and impact information: http://www.uwex.edu/ces/4h/yig/research.cfm

2. Brief description of the target audience

The Youth Voices in Community Action and Governance Team provides research-based education, resources and capacity-building support to youth and adult volunteers. Of 5,743 adults reached through direct teaching methods in 2009, 98.3% were white, 0.5% Asian American, 0.2% African American, 0.2% American Indian, and 0.7% were of other identity; 59.9% were female and 40.1% male. Of these, 1.2% (67) identified as Latino/a, who may be of any race. In 2008-2009, 4,742 youth enrolled in 4-H Citizenship and Civic Education. Community partners such as Boys and Girls Clubs and 4,274 trained adult and teen volunteers made additional teaching contacts.

UW-Extension Cooperative Extension colleagues are connected by email ListServ, online newsletters, shared resources and regular monthly statewide teleconferences to ensure consistent messages. Colleagues and other professionals in this network include 4-H youth development, family living, community resource development and agriculture campus and county educators and 4-H program advisors.

Youth and adult volunteers work together in positions of shared responsibility, making decisions and taking actions to strengthen communities, organizations, coalitions and programs. Youth include middle and high school students trained to serve in Teen Courts hearing misdemeanor cases of their peers, on junior fair boards, dairy and exhibits committees, 4-H boards of directors, 4-H leader councils, school board committees, 4-H after-school program steering committees, community service, trails, triathlon and other city council committees, county boards of supervisors and standing committees, and grassroots community action coalitions such as the 8-county Superior Days delegation: http://www.superiordays.com/Youth.html

Community partners include coalitions and government bodies that create meaningful roles for young people in making decisions and sharing governance with adults, such as 4-H clubs and groups, 4-H after-school programs, 4-H leader boards, steering committees and advisory groups, Future Farmers of America, schools, school boards and school districts, city councils, police and sheriff departments, county fair boards and boards of supervisors, service groups, nonprofit organizations that provide volunteer positions for youth, and the multi-agency coalition Youth as Partners in Civic Leadership (YPCL). Demographic information from 2009 evaluation indicates diversity of the 149 YPCL Conference participants: Latino/a 6%, American Indian 10%, African American 21%, white 56%, and other or multi-ethnic identity 8%.

Educational partners include the Wisconsin Association of County Extension Committees (WACEC), National Youth in Governance Initiative, Wisconsin and National Association of Youth Courts, county juvenile courts and juvenile justice committees, county and tribal health departments, and the 8-county Superior Days coalition.

Ultimate beneficiaries include library patrons, teens using drop-in centers, skaters, dancers, hikers, triathletes, 4-H club and fair participants, after-school program participants, their parents and parents' employers, first-time juvenile offenders, their parents and communities.

V(E). Planned Program (Outputs)

1. Standard output measures

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<tr>
<th>2009</th>
<th>Direct Contacts Adults</th>
<th>Indirect Contacts Adults</th>
<th>Direct Contacts Youth</th>
<th>Indirect Contacts Youth</th>
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<td>Actual</td>
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2. Number of Patent Applications Submitted (Standard Research Output)
Patent Applications Submitted

Year: 2009
Plan: 0
Actual: 0

Patents listed

3. Publications (Standard General Output Measure)

Number of Peer Reviewed Publications

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<thead>
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<th></th>
<th>Extension</th>
<th>Research</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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Output Target

Output #1

Output Measure

- {No Data Entered}
### V(G). State Defined Outcomes

#### V. State Defined Outcomes Table of Content

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>O. No.</th>
<th>OUTCOME NAME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Young people that reflect community diversity work in local groups to make decisions with consequences for the organization, community or public.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Communities, organizations, coalitions, and programs are strengthened by the involvement of youth in decision-making.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Skilled and experienced youth and adults are available for community decision-making and leadership roles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Community organizations, coalitions, and government bodies improve practices and policies that support youth engagement.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Outcome #1

1. Outcome Measures

   Young people that reflect community diversity work in local groups to make decisions with consequences for the organization, community or public.

2. Associated Institution Types

   ● 1862 Extension

3a. Outcome Type:

   Change in Action Outcome Measure

3b. Quantitative Outcome

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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3c. Qualitative Outcome or Impact Statement

   Issue (Who cares and Why)

   Wisconsin residents living more than 300 miles from the state capital felt isolated geographically and politically. Improvements they needed were beyond local government capacity. Under Cooperative Extension guidance, Superior Days was launched as a grassroots citizen democracy effort to bring their top issues to state legislators in Madison. A diverse group of residents from students to retirees collaborate to strengthen the 8-county region's relationship with state government. Youth delegates play a key role in planning, organizing, implementing and evaluating all aspects of Superior Days.

   What has been done

   For more than 20 years, Wisconsin Cooperative Extension county educators have provided leadership for this participatory democracy effort. Delegates identify critical issues they will present to legislators and government officials. Issues must be unique to Northwest Wisconsin, require resources that exceed local capacity, and rank as top priorities by consensus. Adults and youth then research these issues - drawing on extension expertise, networking, sharing ideas, and forming partnerships around common goals. Finally, delegates discuss their issues with state senators, representatives, agency leaders and the governor. In one of the region's 8 participating counties, Sawyer County 4-H youth development educator Lori Laberee identifies youth participants, helps train them for the two-day event, and mentors them while in Madison. She partners with the Sawyer County 4-H Leaders Association, county board, county Youth Services Network and trained volunteers. Since 2004, Sawyer County youth have stood among those in the Superior Days Delegation functioning as equal partners with adults: http://www.superiordays.com/Youth.html

   Results

   In 2009, the 50 Superior Days youth delegates learned about the political process and that legislators are willing to listen. Two prepared an oral presentation for the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors. One supervisor commented, "It amazes me how articulate our youth are on the issues." "They (youth) are so poised." Although budgets are tight, the county board continues to fund the initiative and finds it valuable experience for youth participants. One youth observed: "I learned about many major issues in Northwest Wisconsin, and the level of interest the legislators have in issues that affect the Northwest corner of Wisconsin."

   Around 4,000 Superior Days delegates have reported increased knowledge of community issues and improved understanding of Northwest Wisconsin needs among elected officials developing state policies. Youth and adult participants have emerged as leaders in service and civic organizations, community and neighborhood groups, city councils, county boards and the state Legislature. In the words of a city council member: "Superior Days participation provided me the opportunity to become more informed about local issues, develop a better understanding of state government, and realize my leadership potential and the self-confidence to pursue public office." More youth in governance impacts are summarized in the evaluation studies section of this report.

4. Associated Knowledge Areas
 Outcome #2

1. Outcome Measures

Communities, organizations, coalitions, and programs are strengthened by the involvement of youth in decision-making.

2. Associated Institution Types

- 1862 Extension

3a. Outcome Type:

Change in Condition Outcome Measure

3b. Quantitative Outcome

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<td>20</td>
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3c. Qualitative Outcome or Impact Statement

**Issue (Who cares and Why)**

Studies show powerful benefits to both youth and their communities when young people take on meaningful civic roles such as serving in Teen Court. And as costs continue to increase to process offenders, the need to invest limited resources in effective prevention is more critical than ever. Making these investments means local practitioners and policymakers need proven methods to change behaviors of youth offenders. In counties where teenage jurors hear first-time misdemeanor cases of their peers and determine the proper educational sanctions, those "sentenced" perform community service valued at an average of $4,500 per county, and are far less likely to return to court for later offenses than those simply charged a small fine in traditional courts.

**What has been done**

Wisconsin Cooperative Extension county youth development educators, 4-H program advisors, trained youth and adult volunteers and community partners such as county and tribal health, police and sheriff departments are supporting 20 of 41 Wisconsin Teen Courts where first-time misdemeanor offenders can appear before a trained jury of their peers. Where traditional juvenile courts might simply impose a small fine, Teen Courts are empowered to create and "sentence" offenders with learning sanctions such as performing community service, attending classes relevant to their offenses, and writing apology letters to those they have wronged. The goal is to help them realize the consequences of making poor choices.

**Results**

Wisconsin youth jurors find this such a positive experience that some assign offenders to community service as Teen Court jurors. Compared with first-time offenders simply charged a small fine in juvenile court, far fewer of those held accountable by their peers will reappear for later offenses. While 1 of every 3 youth offenders who appear in traditional juvenile court becomes a repeat offender (33%), of those referred to Wisconsin Teen Courts, only 1 in 10 appears in court again for later offenses.

Ashland County: The 14 trained youth Teen Court panelists from 3 school districts and the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe question offenders, deliberate and create meaningful sanctions based on restorative justice. A graduate now attending Ashland College asked to stay in the program. In 2009, she coordinated recruitment for new panelists to replace the 8 who graduated, then facilitated training for the new panelists with support of the extension agent Teen Court coordinator, stepping into a larger leadership role within the youth-adult partnership that makes up Teen Court. This also created a template for youth who want to stay involved in Teen Court past graduation.

Oneida County: At 2 new Teen Court sites, 14 trained jurors saw 26 cases on shoplifting, disorderly conduct, underage tobacco and alcohol, and ten cases have been finalized. Teen court jurors reported they learned to ask...
questions to get at the facts, and teen offenders realized they would be accountable for their actions and appreciated the opportunity. Parents of youth offenders were supportive of this help for their son or daughter, calling it a wakeup call for their children to be accountable for their actions.

4. Associated Knowledge Areas

<table>
<thead>
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<th>KA Code</th>
<th>Knowledge Area</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>806</td>
<td>Youth Development</td>
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Outcome #3

1. Outcome Measures

Skilled and experienced youth and adults are available for community decision-making and leadership roles.

2. Associated Institution Types

- 1862 Extension

3a. Outcome Type:

Change in Action Outcome Measure

3b. Quantitative Outcome

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Quantitative Target</th>
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3c. Qualitative Outcome or Impact Statement

Issue (Who cares and Why)

Since 2004, a broad-based group of Wisconsin youth organizations have determined that there are insufficient opportunities for youth to prepare for active citizenship roles. In addition to addressing youth leadership and youth in governance goals identified at an earlier Youth as Partners in Civic Leadership (YPCL) Conference, evaluation of the 2008 YPCL Conference reflected a need for more attention to diversity. Half of the respondents suggesting issues requested addressing diversity and racism. Other youth reported feeling uncomfortable and unskilled in navigating the racially diverse conference. The conference committee reflected on the missed opportunity for having diverse youth and adults learn from each other.

What has been done

State 4-H youth development specialist Matthew Calvert led a conference planning committee including youth and adults from organizations in Milwaukee, Racine and Wautoma as well as statewide groups such as Wisconsin Youth Voice and 4-H Youth Development. To respond to evaluation results, the committee decided to write a new conference objective: "Gather and engage, at the conference and in their communities, a diverse group of youth and adults who believe in youth voice." $5000 was secured from the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families to support scholarships for teams from lower income counties. Calvert also secured funding from the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation and USDA's Rural Youth Development programs to support diverse participation.

Results

The 2009 Got Voice? Make Change Conference engaged 149 participants including 111 youth and 38 adults. Eighteen youth/adult teams represented communities, schools and youth-serving organizations from urban, suburban, and rural areas from all corners of the state and American Indian tribes. 9 of the 18 conference sessions were led by people of color. 5 were led by youth and adults from rural communities. Team leaders reported that the diversity of presenters encouraged them to attend and helped with recruiting. Demographic information from the evaluation indicated the diversity of conference participants: Latino/a 6%, American Indian 10%, African American 21%, white 56%, and other or multi-ethnic identity 8%.

Post-conference evaluation indicated that 80% of conference participants exchanged ideas and formed friendships with people from diverse backgrounds. Asked about the most valuable experience at the conference, a young person responded, "Mostly getting to meet new people. Back home there is zero diversity and I love
seeing all the culture and learning/networking with all of these people with different backgrounds."

An adult from an organization whose mission includes cultivating cross-cultural leadership observed: "It's lily white where we are or 'biversity' in some areas with Native Americans. That's a big draw for us and our students. They talked a lot about the diversity of who's here." Staff members from organizations in Milwaukee and Racine noted that it was the only truly state-wide event that they were involved in with youth. Those from rural communities noted that shared commitment to positive change helped youth bridge racial diversity.

4. Associated Knowledge Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KA Code</th>
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<tbody>
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Outcome #4

1. Outcome Measures

Community organizations, coalitions, and government bodies improve practices and policies that support youth engagement.

2. Associated Institution Types

- 1862 Extension

3a. Outcome Type:

Change in Action Outcome Measure

3b. Quantitative Outcome

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Quantitative Target</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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3c. Qualitative Outcome or Impact Statement

Issue (Who cares and Why)
Wisconsin Cooperative Extension works with county boards, city councils and their committees to include youth representation. For example, youth leadership development is critical in building civic capacity and long-term community sustainability in Kenosha County. Programs that teach useful skills and build the self-confidence of young people ensure capable, effective leaders for the next generation. Recent national trends including an increase in youth civic service and new emphasis on civic education in schools indicate a growing need for leadership training to ensure young people are prepared to participate in political and civic life. Kenosha County asked for support in evaluating their Youth in Governance program quality and implementation.

What has been done
Working with the Kenosha County Extension Education Committee, the youth and family educator, community development educator, and county director provided orientation training for the 18 youth appointed to serve on all nine Kenosha County Board of Supervisors committees, making it the largest Youth in Governance program in Wisconsin. Mentors were recruited by the extension education committee chair and provided with information on working with youth members. The extension youth and family educator and office chair worked with the county board chair to provide training to mentors. A youth development specialist and graduate student evaluated the effectiveness of mentoring for the extension education committee.

Results
The extension researchers found competing role expectations that shape mentor behaviors and impact overall youth-adult interactions. Participants described the role of the mentors in two different ways, as guide and advocate or as facilitator and liaison. Similarly, participants describe the role of youth in two different manners, as contributor or as learner. Opinions also conflict over who is responsible for initiating contact, mentor or mentee. The researchers recommend that the extension education committee consider how to make these expectations explicit. While mentors made infrequent use of assistance strategies, their most common strategies were setting up county tours and meetings with department heads, providing background information, role modeling, soliciting
Youth input and ideas during committee meetings, and using positive reinforcement. The researchers recommended ensuring that these strategies are used intentionally and more often.

Youth representatives were satisfied with their experience when one of the following supports existed:
1. A strong mentor relationship.
2. Other adults acted like a mentor.
3. The committee offered genuine opportunities for youth voice.

Both youth and adults have increased respect for each other as a result of this program. “The committee respects us a lot more than they used to,” One youth member observes. Youth In Governance has proved to be invaluable to educate county board supervisors on youth assets and civic engagement. More Youth in Governance impacts are summarized in the evaluation studies section of this report, including key items of the evaluation for NIFA attention.

4. Associated Knowledge Areas

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<th>Knowledge Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>806</td>
<td>Youth Development</td>
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V(H). Planned Program (External Factors)

**External factors which affected outcomes**
- Natural Disasters (drought, weather extremes, etc.)
- Appropriations changes
- Public Policy changes
- Government Regulations
- Populations changes (immigration, new cultural groupings, etc.)

**Brief Explanation**

V(I). Planned Program (Evaluation Studies and Data Collection)

1. Evaluation Studies Planned
   - After Only (post program)
   - Before-After (before and after program)
   - Case Study
   - Other (Direct observation)

**Evaluation Results**

**Issue**
Building support for youth representation in local government: Wisconsin Cooperative Extension works with county boards, city councils and their committees to include youth. For example, youth leadership development is critical in building civic capacity and long-term community sustainability in Kenosha County. Programs that teach useful skills and build the self-confidence of young people ensure capable, effective leaders for the next generation. Kenosha County asked for support in evaluating their program quality and implementation.

**Response**
State 4-H Youth Development specialist Matt Calvert invited county faculty in five participating counties to help develop an evaluation process. The group selected a mixed methods process to document impact on youth participants, adult board members and communities. They also hoped for results that would lead to program improvement. The Washburn County evaluation report was used in a presentation to Burnett County board members as evidence for the kind of impact they could expect. Burnett County added youth to their board in 2009, and with Crawford, Langlade, Marquette and Rock, joined Douglas, Kenosha, Oneida, Washburn, and Waupaca counties in creating opportunities for youth to join county boards and committees and to cast advisory or actual votes. Evaluation results have also been shared with the Wisconsin Counties.
Association, Northern District Extension staff and other colleagues. A website shares practical program and impact information: http://www.uwex.edu/ces/4h/yig/research.cfm

Results

For example, these two impacts of youth on boards are described in evaluation results: Civic development: 1. Youth noted the value of citizen contributions. 2. Youth increased interest in becoming involved in politics. 3. Youth reported improved opinion of elected officials. 4. Youth participants and their schoolmates increased understanding of public issues and government.

Community improvement: 1. Youth bring new voices to the decision-making process to inform elected officials and strengthen government programs. 2. Youth asking direct questions helped all board members build their involvement and understanding. 3. Improved public opinion of youth from public recognition of their involvement.

In 2009, state specialist Shep Zeldin and graduate student Jessica Collura reported to the Kenosha County Extension Education Committee that youth representatives were satisfied with their experience when one of the following supports existed:

1. A strong mentor relationship.
2. Other adults acted like a mentor.
3. The committee offered genuine opportunities for youth voice.

While mentors made infrequent use of assistance strategies, their most common strategies were setting up county tours and meetings with department heads, providing background information, indirect modeling, soliciting youth input and ideas during committee meetings, and using positive reinforcement. The researchers recommended ensuring that these strategies are used intentionally and more often. Both youth and adults have increased respect for each other as a result of Kenosha County youth representation. "The committee respects us a lot more than they used to," One youth member observes.

Key Items of Evaluation

Building support for youth representation in local government:

Wisconsin Cooperative Extension is working with county boards, city councils and their committees to include youth representation in a growing number of counties. Evaluation results are already helping improve and expand support for youth representation in local government. As a result of the evaluation, Kenosha County UW-Extension Cooperative Extension added a more significant orientation process. Working with the Kenosha County Extension Education Committee, the youth and family educator, community development educator, and county director provided orientation training for the 18 youth appointed to serve on all nine Kenosha County Board of Supervisors committees, making it the largest Youth in Governance program in Wisconsin. Mentors were recruited by the extension education committee chair and provided with information on working with youth members. The extension youth and family educator and office chair worked with the county board chair to provide training to mentors. A youth development specialist and graduate student evaluated the effectiveness of mentoring for the extension education committee. Both youth and adults have increased respect for each other as a result of this program. "The committee respects us a lot more than they used to," One youth member observed. Youth In Governance has proved to be invaluable to educate county board supervisors on youth assets and civic engagement.

Washburn County educators reported that evaluation results helped them target a more demographically representative group of youth for their program, in which 14 high school students have served as youth representatives or alternates on the Washburn County Board of Supervisors with 21 elected officials. Youth cast advisory votes and serve on standing committees for 1 year. The Washburn County evaluation report was used in a presentation to Burnett County board members as evidence of the kind of impact they could expect. As a result, Burnett County added youth to their board in 2009 with Langlade and Marquette counties, joining Douglas, Kenosha, Oneida, Washburn, and Waupaca counties in creating opportunities for youth to join county boards and committees and to cast advisory or actual votes. In turn, youth build leadership skills and habits of active citizenship, gain a sense of responsibility, and form supportive relationships with influential community members. A website shares practical program and impact information: http://www.uwex.edu/ces/4h/yig/research.cfm