

THE SLICE

Summer 2023

ACE Conference Highlights
CREE Online Course
International Travel
NEW Educational Program

PIE Center Shines at 2023 ACE Conference

ASHEVILLE, NC – The UF/IFAS Center for Public Issues Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (PIE Center) made a lasting impression at the 2023 Association for Communication Excellence (ACE) conference in June.

The PIE Center's involvement in the conference was evident with several staff members serving on the ACE leadership team and conference planning committee. These contributions ensured that the event provided attendees with a memorable lineup of professional development workshops and networking opportunities.

During the conference, the PIE Center was recognized for achievements in research, communication and education. Ashley McLeod-Morin, associate director of strategic communication for the Southeastern Coastal Center for Agricultural Health and Safety (SCCAHS), received the Outstanding Research Paper award for her article on decision-making during a crisis.

Outreach materials developed by the PIE Center were evaluated as part of the ACE Critique & Awards program. The team received eight awards – two gold, four silver and two bronze – for projects ranging from videos to communication campaigns.

In addition to the accolades, the PIE Center facilitated workshop sessions, sharing knowledge with colleagues and fostering meaningful connections. The PIE Center's active participation in the 2023 ACE conference exemplifies the center's commitment to advancing the field of agricultural communication.

Left: Ashley McLeod-Morin (L) poses with Lauri Baker (R) after receiving the Outstanding Research Paper award.

Right: The PIE Center team celebrates their accomplishments at the ACE Critique & Award ceremony.



Beyond Borders: Summer Travel Leaves Global Footprint

The PIE Center expanded its footprint this summer with a series of national and international engagements.

Faculty and staff attended scholarly meetings in New Mexico, North Carolina and the United Kingdom to share research findings with colleagues. These academic presentations allowed the PIE Center to reach wider audiences and gain global recognition.

PIE Center partner program the Southeastern Coastal Center for Agricultural Health and Safety (SCCAHS) ventured to Grenada to attend a conference focused

on modernizing agricultural extension and research. By establishing new partnerships, SCCAHS can enhance its outreach efforts in the Caribbean, connecting communities with necessary resources.

Back in the United States, the PIE Center traversed across Maine to initiate a statewide assessment of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension system. The project mirrors the center's successful Extension Roadmap research conducted for UF/IFAS last year.

These endeavors not only increase the visibility of PIE Center programs, but pave the way for future opportunities. Developing relationships across borders enables the PIE Center to achieve its goal of making an impact on an international scale.



PIE Center Partner Program Launches New Online Course

To generate strategies for addressing food system disruptions, the Center for Rural Enterprise Engagement (CREE) launched an online course targeted toward agricultural business owners.

The *Reimagining Resilient Agri-Food Supply Chains* course focuses on the capacities and vulnerabilities of regional food systems. Course content incorporates findings from CREE research related to the impact of COVID-19 on food supply chains.

“Participants will learn how to use data from our consumer survey on food purchasing behaviors to make better decisions on their preferred outlets and logistics for selling their products and making supply chain response decisions.”

Lauri Baker, CREE co-creator & UF associate professor of agricultural communication

To learn more about the course, visit bit.ly/44VI2nO.



GRENADA – Caribbean Agricultural Extension Providers Network annual meeting



MAINE – University of Maine Cooperative Extension needs assessment



NEW MEXICO – North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture conference



NORTH CAROLINA – American Association for Agricultural Education conference; Association for Communication Excellence conference



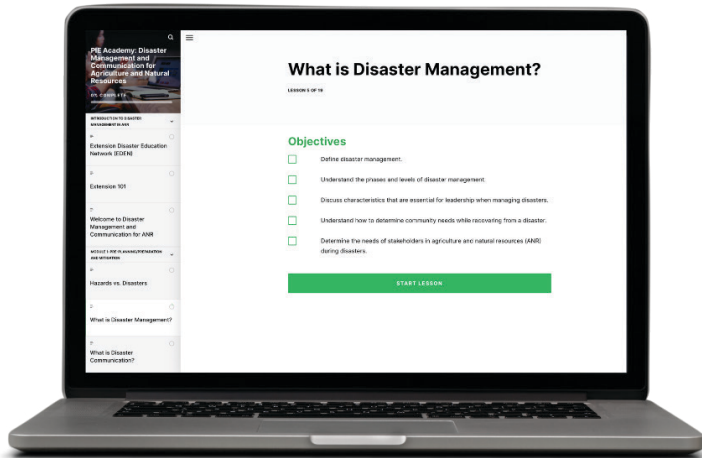
UNITED KINGDOM – Development Studies Association conference



(L to R) Sandra Anderson, Ashley McLeod-Morin and Lauri Baker facilitate focus groups to evaluate University of Maine Cooperative Extension.



PIE ACADEMY



Learn about topics in agriculture and natural resources (ANR)



Courses designed for Extension and ANR professionals



Offered 100% online – complete coursework at your own pace

COMING SOON – In Fall 2023, the PIE Center will launch PIE Academy, a new educational resource designed specifically for professionals in the agriculture and natural resources (ANR) sectors. PIE Academy is comprised of a suite of virtual courses that cover topics relevant to Extension and ANR audiences. Courses are offered completely online and feature engaging content curated by subject matter experts.

To learn more about PIE Academy course offerings, visit: <https://piecenter.com/pie-academy/>

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