



# KNOWLEDGE OF EXTENSION AT A LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITY AND OPPORTUNITIES TO COLLABORATE

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# Introduction

- Land grant and Extension
- University collaboration
- Knowledge survey
- Examples of new collaborations developed

# What is Extension?

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# Morrill Act of 1862: Land Grant

- Land granted to each state to help develop a university with the following goal:

“to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, in such a manner as the legislatures of the States may respectively prescribe, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions in life.”

# Smith-Lever Act of 1914: Extension

- Established the **Cooperative Extension Service** for all Land-Grant Universities nation-wide.
- Cultivates partnerships between state entities, like the USDA, and local county governments to provide scientific based knowledge and expertise to the public, including, but not limited to Agriculture, Natural Resources and Life Sciences, and 4-H.

# Goal of Extension

- To provide unbiased, scientific knowledge and expertise to the public; “Extending” the knowledge from the university out to the community.





# University Collaboration

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# Goals of Collaboration

- Help communities and Cooperative Extension draw on valuable expertise already existing at the university
- Can help the university with community outreach
- Collaborations that might be mutually beneficial:
  - Collaborative grants and research
  - Joint appointments and Legislative Budget Requests
  - Applying research findings in the real world
  - Contracting with communities
  - Student opportunities



# UF Strategic Plan (2015)

- Goal 5: A strengthened public engagement of the university's programs with local, national, and international communities

Objective 1 – Increased engagement and outreach of UF programs leading to positive impacts in such areas as health, the economy, environment and community

Also, collaboration can contribute to Goals 2, 3 and 4 (increasing quality and accessibility of education; increased recognition of UF and faculty; increase research that increases knowledge and life quality)

# KNOWLEDGE OF EXTENSION SURVEY

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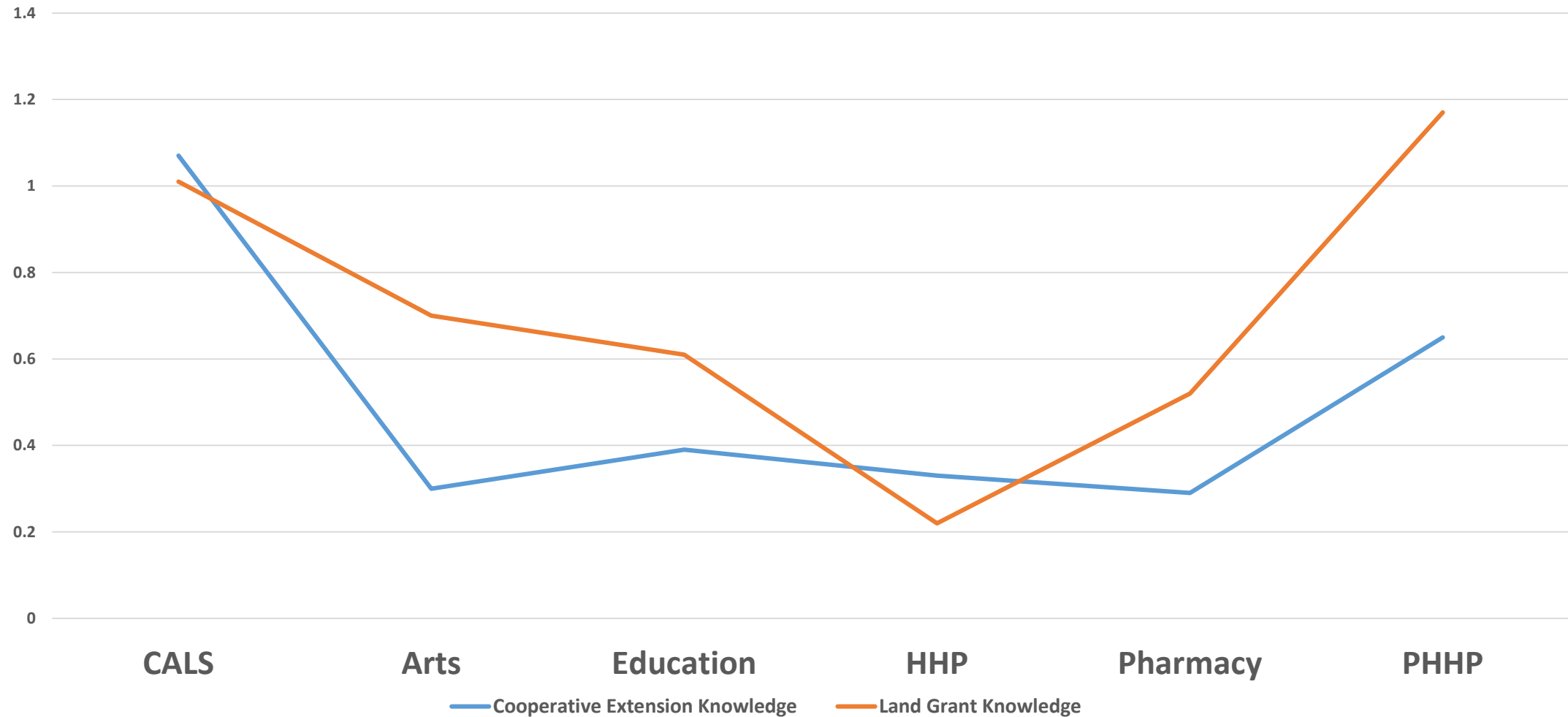
# Survey Developed

- Developed a survey of university knowledge and attitude toward Extension
- IRB approved as Exempt
- Administered to UF faculty through deans, August –September, 2016
- Examine data for baseline level, and which areas might need more targeting
- Quantitative and qualitative data
- Helps us assess progress

# Survey

- Total of 228 faculty members completed the survey
- University has around 5000 faculty, but not all received the survey
- Respondents represented 13 of 17 colleges
- 94 from CALS; 134 from other colleges
- Asked for description of understanding of knowledge of Cooperative Extension and Land Grant University
- 2 outside raters were trained on the topic
- Scored description on a 0-2 scale for knowledge

# EXTENSION AND LAND GRANT KNOWLEDGE BY COLLEGE



# Survey Limitations

- Consider that some colleges low or no participation (none Journalism; only 1 each in Engineering, Business, Law, CLAS, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine)
- Sample not perfectly representative, but hard to get people to do surveys
- Clearly need to increase knowledge of Extension, particularly HHP, Arts, Education
- Lack of response suggests some colleges might have little connection to Extension



# Examples of collaborations

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# Collaborations

- Developing student internship opportunities
- Educational programs offered through Extension
- Collaborative work with health sciences
- Enhancing art opportunities in rural areas
- Facilitating local employment
- Facilitating expertise transportation/waste management
- Developing land use plans, allowing for student participation
- Grant based collaborations related to research and educational programs

# Upcoming

- April 2, 2020 – 1:30-4:30
- Hosting a collaboration event related to the topic of community resiliency
- Please let me know if you or others in your department might have an interest in attending

# Contact Information

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