



Keeping you connected

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UofA
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

No. 4

Extension honors retirees at the 2026 Spring Retiree Luncheon

The 2026 Spring Retiree Luncheon was held on March 31, 2026, at the C. A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center in Ferndale. The day began with Connections and Coffee – an informal networking time for retirees to reconnect with colleagues and friends, and of course, have some coffee and cinnamon rolls.

Featured presentations included a session on minimizing food waste by Brianna Austin, county extension agent for family and consumer sciences in Perry County, followed by a presentation highlighting the 4-H videography team led by Kerry Rodtnick, extension videographer with the communications department.

Dr. Anderson provided an administrative update and presented three CES retiree scholarships. We followed up with door prize drawings, a group photo to commemorate the event and a luncheon. Event photos are available at [Spring Luncheon Photos](#).

It was a great day to see everyone, and we appreciate all who were able to attend. We look forward to hosting our regional meetings in the fall.



Extension director Dr. John Anderson delivers Division updates to retirees gathered at the annual retiree luncheon.



Retirees pose for a group photo at the 2026 Retiree Reception & Luncheon.

THE INSIDE STORIES

2026 Retiree Luncheon photos

Extension Retiree Scholarships awarded for 2026

Message from the director

Retiree Scholarship Fund

May birthdays

2

Extension Retiree Scholarships awarded for 2026

The CES Retiree Editorial Board was pleased to award three \$1,000 scholarships to employees pursuing graduate degrees, including two master's students and one doctoral candidate. The recipients were recognized at the 2026 Spring Retiree Luncheon, held March 31 at the Arkansas 4-H Center.



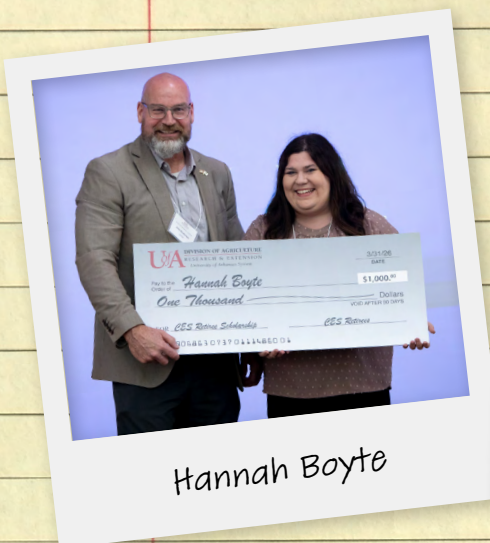
Hannah Boyte is the agriculture agent and staff chair for Columbia County and is pursuing a Master of Science in agricultural education and extension education at the University of Arkansas. With a strong focus on agricultural programming and 4-H youth development, she will apply graduate coursework in leadership, evaluation and community engagement directly to her Extension work.



Tori Luker serves as the family and consumer sciences agent in Miller County and is pursuing a master's degree in food safety at the University of Arkansas. Her academic background and professional experience in food safety, combined with Extension programming, position her to strengthen public health education across Arkansas.



Danielle Watson is a program associate for community, workforce and economic development and a doctoral student in change leadership at the University of Central Arkansas. Her work demonstrates strong leadership, applied research and significant contributions to Extension's community and economic development mission.



Hannah Boyte



Tori Luker



Danielle Watson



Jim Wallace and Jerry Wooley catch up.

Visit the [Retiree Luncheon Photo Album](#) to see more!



Retirees and guests hear updates from extension director Dr. John Anderson.



FCS agent Brianna Austin presents on minimizing food waste.



Sam Boyster visits with Tracy Courage, director of communications.



Liz Childs watches a presentation highlighting the 4-H videography team.



Retirees and guests visit before lunch begins.



Sharon & Bob Reynolds visit with Darlene Millard.



Tom Troxel and Quinton Hornsby chat.

Message from the director



Hard to believe April is already over. I'm sorry to see it go. Partly because that means I am late with my Blue Letter contribution, but also because April is such a nice time of year in these parts. I generally spend quite a bit of time on

the road in April, and there is no better time of year to be out and about in this state. We could have done with a little more rain this year – a drastic change from a year ago, for sure – but otherwise it was a characteristically beautiful April in Arkansas.

April is also support staff conference time for UADA. I had the opportunity to join the last day of the conference at the 4-H Center in Ferndale. Steve Siegelin and his team put together an outstanding professional development opportunity for both CES and AES staff. It is always nice to see our support staff from all over the state come together in one place. UADA gives the UA System a presence in every part of the state. When we all come together, it is an impressive reminder of that reach and of the important role that UADA and CES play in so many communities.

I heard a lot this month about the importance of CES to Arkansas communities. The state legislature held its biannual fiscal session this past month. Over and over, people relayed to me the favorable comments from legislators about the importance of their local Extension staff. Extension is essential to the well-being of this state. I know it doesn't always feel like it, but people do really notice what we do. More than that, they genuinely appreciate it.

Make a Gift to the CES Retiree Scholarship Fund

By Check:

Check payable to: Agricultural Development Council

Memo: CES Retiree Scholarship

Mail to:

Don Tyson Center for Agricultural Sciences
Attn: Elizabeth Tipton
1371 West Altheimer Drive
Fayetteville, AR 72704

Give Online:

Visit https://bit.ly/Donate_UADA

May Birthdays

Eva Johnson - May 1	Donna Swift - May 11	Vicki Brakefield - May 21
Paul Cooper - May 2	Kristopher Rutherford - May 11	Charlotte Freeman - May 22
Richard Klerk - May 3	Robert Rhodes - May 12	Kathryn McElderry - May 23
Shirley West - May 5	Clyde Stuart Jr. - May 17	Donald Johnson - May 24
Glenda Sutherlin - May 6	Dianna Cox - May 17	Dana Stringfellow - May 25
Kim Hughes - May 7	Debie Head - May 17	Faye Suitt - May 26
Gustav Lorenz III - May 9	Harold Williams - May 18	Larry Smith - May 29
Earl Wilson - May 10	Deborah Dority - May 18	Jane Newton - May 29
Terrence Kirkpatrick - May 10	William Russell Jr. - May 19	Donald Slate - May 30
Lillie Teel - May 10	Teresa Booth - May 21	Darlene Zeh Millard - May 31