

CCE Monroe County Executive Director Report March 2026

The Headlines

- **Personnel**
 - Finished 4-H Coordinator interviews, made offer. Will announce final once background check is completed.
 - emp to Hire candidate Administrative Assistant continuing to go well. Will be finalizing this position in late April.
 - Melissa Brown presented to the Staff on “Great Customer Service”. Excellent dialogue and learnings!
- **Program & Operations**
 - Food Insecurity Project – processing applications, fulfilling requests
 - Demo with representative with Built for Teams – new system to help track staff effort on grants and manage leave time. Will save the Association time and money.
 - Site visit at Conifer Park (Addiction Support) for program expansion and outreach.
 - Taught 2 Agriculture Literacy Classes
- **Finance**
 - Year End Financials
 - Investment strategy discussions with RACF and Friends of Extension Foundation.
 - Resource Development conversations w/ potential consultant.
 - Focused grant development efforts, including research opportunities, drafting proposals, and aligning funding strategies with program priorities.
 - GVRMA 2026-2027 (4-H) grant awarded!
 - IPM Grant (Horticulture) awarded!
 - GRHF Grant – 5 years, \$150K – We have been asked to be lead on this grant
- **Governance & External Relations**
 - Serving on hiring team for new Cornell Regional Ag Director – Peter Landre has announced his retirement.
 - WSBN AMG hired mediator to assist with Lead Association concerns.

Strategic Plan Update

- 1.1, 1.3 Program Effectiveness –
Develop relevant programs that meet residents’ current and future needs and interests. Assess current programs for pertinence, reach, sustainability, and impact. *Continued alignment conversations with program teams, using advisory input and grant priorities to inform future direction.*

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program opportunities.

- 1.2 Program Effectiveness –
Intentionally imbed practices of diversity and equity in all programming.
DEIB team is completing a DEI survey to determine growth areas for CCE Monroe
- 2.2 Resource Management –
Assess and identify funding acquisition and allocation strategies for organizational success.
Active grant and donor development conversations.

What's On Tap?

Looking ahead, I'm excited to lean into a season of growth, connection, and continued learning across the Association. One of our biggest upcoming investments is a full-staff professional development workshop series with Darrell Jachim-Moore. Together, we'll be exploring our individual and collective strengths and how we can build on them to make our organization even stronger.

I'm also taking steps to think more broadly about how we sustain and grow our work. By attending the *Beyond Grants: Diversifying Revenue* workshop with Ann Marie, I'm looking forward to exploring new funding approaches and strengthening our long-term financial strategy.

On the broader system level, I'll be staying connected and engaged through participation in the Cornell Land Grant Summit and NYCON Finance Training at Cornell.

And in the spirit of practicing what we preach around well-being, I've also carved out a little time for rest and sunshine; I'll be away from April 9-15.

Lunch & Learn – Please feel free to bring your lunch and join us! All sessions held at the CCE Monroe conference room; please enter via the Visitor Entrance and sign-in upon arrival.
12:00pm-12:45pm

- Thursday, 4/23 – *One Sustainable Practice I'm Excited About* – presented by the Horticulture team.
- Thursday, 4/30 – *Time Management Practices for Work and Life* – presented by Christi Smith, WSBN HR/IT Specialist

Jerry Kral's Celebration of Life takes place on April 26 from 2-5 at the Strathallan Hotel in their City View Ballroom