



**December 2009  
Cooperative Extension educators receive national 2009 Science and Service Award**

*Strengthening Families Program 10-14 team recognized for work proven to prevent substance abuse among young people*

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Madison, Wis.--A team of family living and youth educators from the University of Wisconsin-Extension has received a national award for its efforts in providing education proven to reduce substance abuse among the state's young people.

The group was one of just 27 chosen from across the nation to receive the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) 2009 Science and Service Award.

The annual SAMSHA award program recognizes public- and private-sector organizations, as well as community-based coalitions, that have worked to improve their communities and the lives of individuals.

Members of Wisconsin's Strengthening Families Program--10-14 team, which conducts the educational effort, include Carol Ostergren, Mary Huser, Bev Doll, Dianne Weber, Jane Schaaf, Juana Avila, Kristen Bruder, Pam Peterson, Joan LeFebvre and Annette Bjorklund.

"Applicants were rated using four criteria: community need, sustainability, implementation and results," says Carol Ostergren, child development specialist with Family Living Programs. "The Wisconsin team was selected because it strongly met each of the criteria in the area of substance abuse prevention."

Statewide evaluation results of the Wisconsin team showed that, as a result of the program, more than 80 percent of youth who participated in the program said they better understood family rules about drinking and drugs, and 73 percent said they understood the consequences if a rule was broken. Nine of ten youth agreed they had learned ways to resist peer pressure to do things that would get them into trouble.

“Families and individuals deserve the most effective services possible for the prevention and treatment of health conditions, including...substance abuse disorders,” said SAMHSA acting administrator Eric Broderick. “These award winners have demonstrated that they are delivering such services in their communities.”

To view the full list of organizations receiving awards, go to:

<http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/advisories/090925ss4927.aspx>

To learn more about Family Living Programs work in strengthening families, go to

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/families/strengthening.cfm>

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