



Dana Stephens

County Extension Director and 4-H Agent

Okaloosa County

Northwest Extension District

Profile

As the County Extension Director, I support a dynamic team of faculty, program assistants, and staff in Okaloosa County, FL. I promote an inclusive team, prioritizing awareness and engagement in educational programming focused on building and sustaining community-based relationships among the various communities served.

As the 4-H Agent, I craft accessible, experiential learning opportunities for youth and support systems for adult volunteers to grow as community citizens and adaptable leaders. I integrate my aptitude in natural resource and aquatic management, environmental sciences, and career readiness to expand existing 4-H programming.

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Educational Programs

4-H Organizational and Volunteer Systems Supporting Youth Development in Okaloosa County: This program targets recruitment, development, and avenues of continued support for adult volunteers and leaders devoted to equipping youth with essential life skills, confidence, and a sense of belonging through engaging and fun learning experiences within 4-H. Main program cornerstones include consistent organizational function, protocols and procedures, and positive youth development.

4-H Youth Development in Okaloosa County: Okaloosa County 4-H team develops, implements, supports, and evaluates educational programming and engagement opportunities driven by the needs of youth. These 4-H programs are disseminated in varying modalities as clubs, in-school, after-school, and military-based programming, day and residential camps, judged events, or workshops.

Leadership and Engagement Development in Okaloosa County: I guide the Okaloosa UF/IFAS Extension vision, strategic planning, and impact using a shared governance approach to drive measurable impact encompassing the needs of the communities and demonstrate shifts in behavior due to meaningful educational programming. I serve as the liaison between Okaloosa County and UF with responsibilities to both entities.

Experience

Dean of Arts and Sciences, Northwest Florida State College, 2020-2023

Associate Professor of Natural Sciences, Northwest Florida State College, 2020-2023

Department Chair of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Northwest Florida State College, 2018-2020

Director of the Mattie M. Kelly Institute, Northwest Florida State College, 2015-2023

Assistance Professor of Natural Sciences, Northwest Florida State College, 2015-2020

Lecturer, University of Florida, 2014-2015

Professional Preparation

Doctorate of Philosophy, University of Florida, 2012

Master of Science, University of Florida, 2008

Bachelor of Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2005