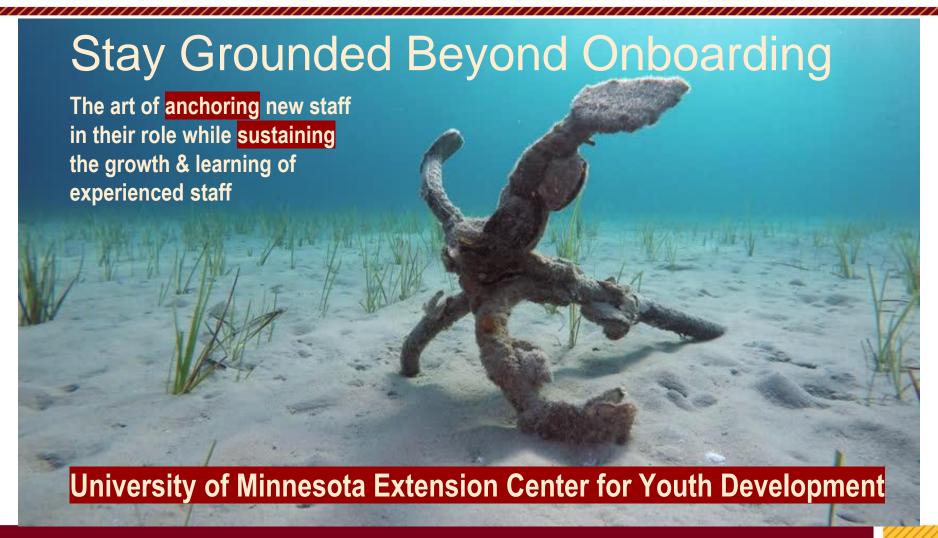
MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN MINNESOTA: ENVIRONMENT + FOOD & AGRICULTURE + COMMUNITIES + FAMILIES + YOUTH



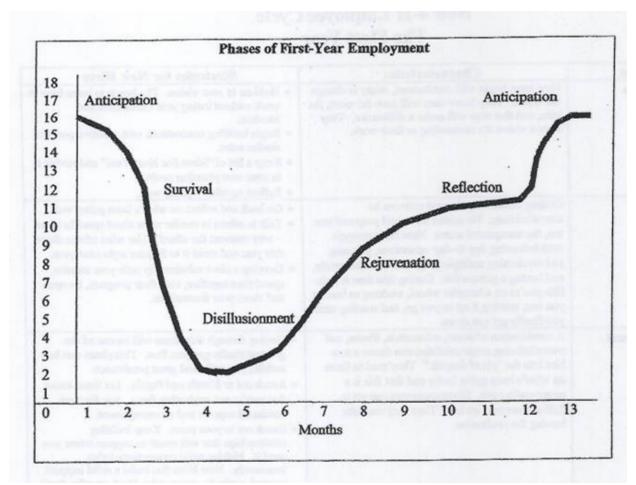
Welcome to Minnesota!



History of Onboarding Practices



Understanding the Effectiveness of our Onboarding









GOAL #3: Relevant & Timely Topics taught by diverse presenters

THE RESULT...



A long-term cohort for staff onboard for 6-18 months; offered as a hybrid learning opportunity, with the incorporation of an Action Learning Project

The YDLL Anchor Cohort is:

- 8-months of training both online & face-toface
- Participants actively lead portions of the experience
- Extension educators and specialists lead and support in partnership with participants.
- Action Learning: An ALP incorporates smallgroup work, mentor support, and continuous reflection
- EVOLVING: Topics/schedules constantly change to ensure participants needs are met

Why a Cohort was Essential...

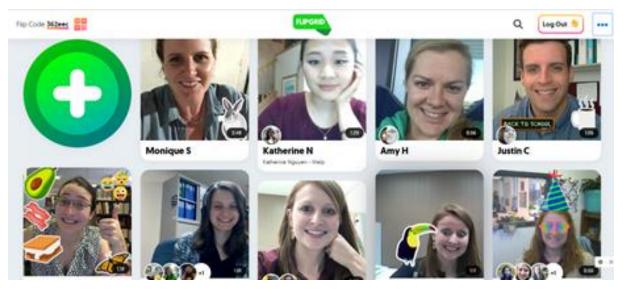


TIMELINE & TOPICS

SESSION	MONTH	Date & Time	LOCATION	TOPIC: LEADERSHIP IS*
1	SEPTEMBER	September 11, 2018 10am-5pm	St. Paul Student Center	Strengths Based Leadership ALP Introduction YD 101
2	SEPTEMBER	September 12, 2018 9am-2pm	St. Paul Student Center	Fiscal Responsibility 4-H Online Basics
3	OCTOBER	October 16, 2018 10am-12pm	Online	Getting Good Data
4	NOVEMBER	November 13, 2018 10am-5pm	St. Paul Student Center	 Relationship Building Tools: 1-on-1, storytelling Engaging Volunteers
5	NOVEMBER	November 14, 2018 9am-2pm	St. Paul Student Center	Intentional Program Planning
6	DECEMBER	December 18, 2018 10am-12pm	Online/WebEx	PPOW Planning
7	JANUARY	January 8, 2019 10am-12pm	Online/WebEx	Dilemmas in Youth Work
8	FEBRUARY	February 12, 2019 10am-5pm	St. Cloud Regional Office	Quality Programming Enhancing Diversity
9	FEBRUARY	February 13, 2019 8am-1pm	St. Cloud Regional Office	 Effective Communication (Crucial Conversations)
10	MARCH	March 12, 2019 10am-12pm	Online/WebEx	Managing Risk
11	YOUTH & U	To Be Determined	To Be Determined	Small Group Connect Presentation Practice
12	APRIL	April 9, 2019 10am-5pm	St. Paul Student Center	 Sharing Impact Engaging Youth Leadership Matters
13	APRIL	April 10, 2019 9am-2pm	St. Paul Student Center	Presentations & Graduation









ALP EXAMPLES

- ProactiveOpportunity
- Solution to an Issue
- StrategicPlanning
- Reorganization



Art of Hosting Practices



Modifying the Cohort



Break ALP small groups up by project topic.

Small groups were initally created based on regions. We learned that these pairings were not always valuable, so we began to connect small groups based on ALP topics in 2017.

Include a mentor option.

Many PCs in our 2016/2017 cohort noted that a mentor may be a valuable addition to the ALP process. This option was included for the 2017/2018 cycle.

Utilize more PC voice to lead during the sessions.

In an attempt to include more participatory leadership, we introduced participant led welcoming and closing activites in 2017.

Review and adapt meeting locations based on participant commute times.

We continue to explore feasible meeting locations to limit travel time for participants. Participants enjoy meeting on campus and also enjoy exploring other regional areas across Minnesota.

Review which topics are more appropriate online vs. face-toface.

Participants have helped us refine which topics are best online vs. in person. Youth Engagement is now offered exclusively face-to-face, while other topics have shifted to an online only format.

Add more informal opportuities for connectivty / longer, more frequent breaks for processing.

The face-to-face days can be long and jam packed.
Providing more planful breaks ensures participants can connect with eachother while offering space for processing and reflection.

Explore an alternative to Moodle.

Moodle was used throughout the first two cycles of the cohort, and engagement with the platform was low. As an alternative, we introduced a combination of Google Sites and FlipGrid.

Invite external presenters and colleagues from other Extension centers.

Some participants were eager to hear from external colleagues from within the field. In 2018 we invited our first outside presenter and will continue to do so as appropriate.

Examine alternative topic options for staff in unique

Not all PC roles are created equal, and some PCs found certain topics irrelevant. We began offering alternative meeting options for those PCs in 2017 to ensure relevancy for all.

Results:

The cohort enhance connections between colleauges.

97% Agree

Influenced professional relationships through sharing and discussion.

100% Agree

I received relevant and research based content that applies to my role.

95% Agree

Builds tangible skills that can be applied immediately to my role.

• 89% Agree



97%

The program content is relevant

100%

I will be able to apply what I learned to my work





100%

I will change my practices based on what I learned

97%

I have a deeper understanding of the topics based on my involvement



100% of participants believe the cohort model provides crucial value to the training

"I have felt a part of a unique group where we became comfortable sharing our highs and lows and sharing ideas to help better our county programs. I simply loved our face-to-face meetings and being able to mix and mingle with the other PC who were "new" to the position just like me and to grow together."

"In our jobs we have such limited contact with our colleagues. This was a great way for me to get to know other PC's who have been here for a similar amount of time. It is a good way to reframe expectations and to see and be inspired by what others are doing."

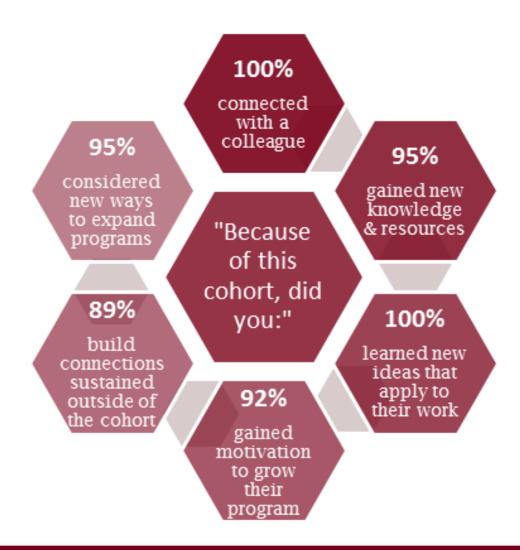
"Relationship building is key to success in this job and being able to personally connect with peers is very necessary to stay motivated in this role when you are a single PC county."

"I feel a huge part of our work is learning to collaborate in order to make our work the best it can be and this process helped by getting to meet other people from around the state that you might not otherwise work with."

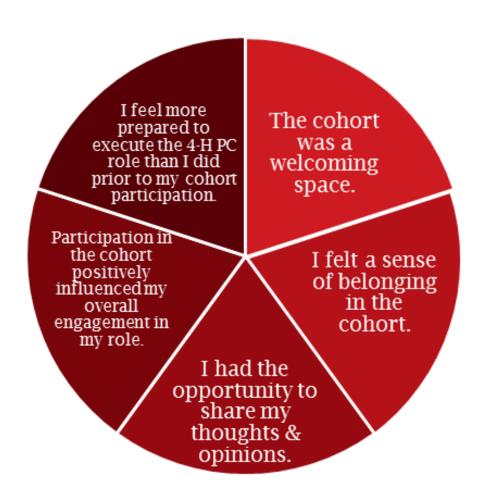




Because of this cohort, did you...



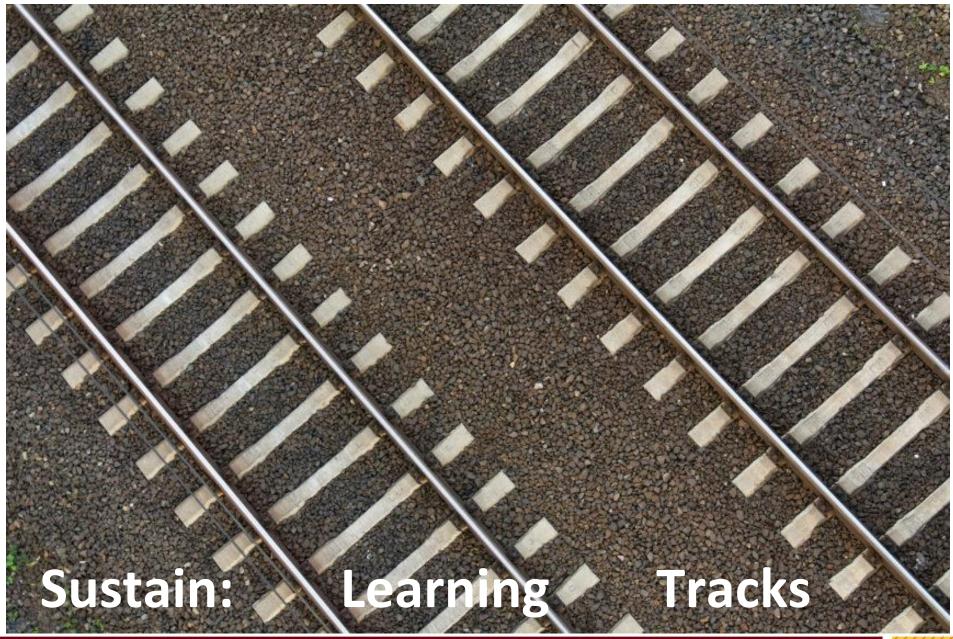
Employee Engagement: 100% Agree!



Training for Experienced Staff

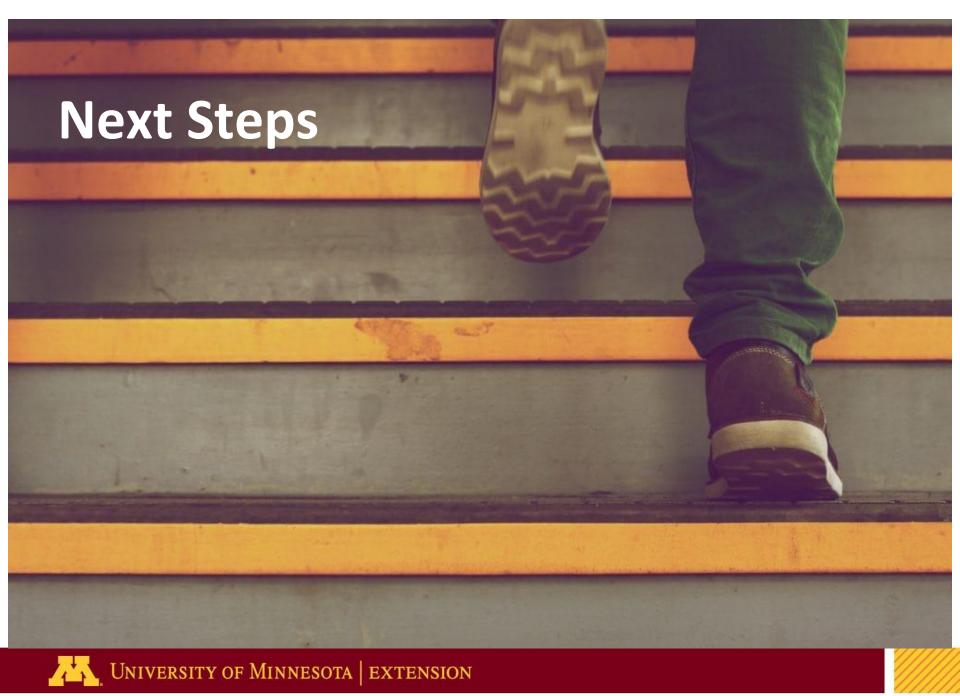
YDLL: Sustain Cohort





CHALLENGES

- Travel & Time involved
- Not all topics applicable to all staff
- ALP can be confusing (and seem intense) at first...
- Building a team…sometimes it goes well!
 Sometimes it doesn't…



Recommendations



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Thank You!

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