



A GUIDE TO EFFECTIVE PROGRAMMING

Ted. G. Futris, Editor

A publication from the National Extension Relationship and Marriage Education Network

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Dear Colleagues:

Greetings and welcome to this publication on relationship and marriage education. As National Program Leader for Family Science Research and Extension at the United States Department of Agriculture's Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (USDA/CSREES), I have the privilege of serving as a federal partner to family and human development faculty and educators throughout the Land-Grant University and Cooperative Extension System. Many of these scholars have dedicated their professional careers to enhancing quality of life for the people of this nation through effective research and practice in relationship and marriage education.

Relationship and marriage education helps couples and those who have chosen marriage for themselves to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to form and sustain healthy relationships. Relationship education has been ongoing in land-grant and Extension outreach efforts for decades. This work is supported by sound research on the many individual, family, and community benefits of outreach and support that enhances physical and emotional health, parenting and child outcomes, workforce productivity, and economic stability.

I encourage you to read through and reflect on the chapters in this publication and to further explore the systematic and ongoing scholarship and engagement in relationship and marriage education by land-grant and Extension faculty. Noted author Stephen Covey once said that if we as a society work diligently in every other area of life and neglect the family, it would be analogous to straightening deck chairs on the Titanic. Land-grant universities and the Cooperative Extension Service have long worked to enhance the quality of family life. Through current efforts in relationship and marriage education, this rich tradition continues.

Sincerely,

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