

## EXTENSION

I currently work on several projects in Extension, all of which revolve around providing knowledge, experiences, and skills to build capacity so people can work toward sustainability. Several programs are in 4-H, the youth education program of the Cooperative Extension Service:

- Florida Forest Ecology Contest [http://www.sfrc.ufl.edu/extension/4h/contest\\_home.html](http://www.sfrc.ufl.edu/extension/4h/contest_home.html)
- Nature Poetry Contest <http://www.sfrc.ufl.edu/extension/4h/poetry/index.html>
- 4-H Project Books [http://www.sfrc.ufl.edu/extension/4h/project\\_books.html](http://www.sfrc.ufl.edu/extension/4h/project_books.html)

Several projects have resulted in the development of instructional resources for teachers. The most recent (and most extensive) was the Southeastern Forests and Climate Change module for Project Learning Tree. This was funded by the 5-year integrated USDA/NIFA project called PINEMAP. <http://sfrc.ufl.edu/extension/ee/climate/>. My students have also developed curriculum on woody biomass (<http://sfrc.ufl.edu/extension/ee/woodenergy/index.html>), forest health (<http://sfrc.ufl.edu/extension/ee/foresthealth.html> and <http://sfrc.ufl.edu/extension/ee/foresthealth.html>) and urban forests ([http://sfrc.ufl.edu/plt/curriculum/urban\\_forests.shtml](http://sfrc.ufl.edu/plt/curriculum/urban_forests.shtml)).

The process of curriculum development involves answering several researchable questions, enabling my research and extension programs to overlap and share graduate students. Understanding how youth perceive issues, exploring the barriers and opportunities teachers perceive, pilot-testing activities, developing scales to measure outcomes that the curriculum is likely to affect, and designing and evaluating teacher workshops are several parts of the process that we typically undertake.

I am currently devoting most of my Extension activity to co-leading the CIVIC program (Community Voices, Informed Choices) which builds capacity for communities to resolve local problems. Based on the Kettering Foundation deliberative dialogue process, we are supporting extension agents as they help communities explore climate change adaptations, low-income housing, water quality and flooding, and poverty.