August 15, 2014

Kevin Schalinske, Ph.D.
President, ISU Faculty Senate
107 Lab of Mechanics
Iowa State University

Dear Dr. Schalinske:

Iowa State University Faculty Senate convened a task force to examine engagement and outreach. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach puts the university’s land-grant mission to work, applying university research and evidence-based practices across the state. Because of our historic and ongoing commitment to engagement with Iowans in their communities, we appreciate the opportunity to respond to the Report of the Task Force on the Scholarship of Engagement and Outreach: Definitions, Outcomes, and Assessment (May 1, 2014). We wish to clarify three points:

1. **Extension’s role within Iowa State University**: Three years ago, we changed our name from University Extension to Extension and Outreach. This organization exemplifies scholarship, engagement, and outreach in the state of Iowa. We and our work are regarded as visionary by our peers throughout the country.

   As the organizational unit responsible for delivering on the land-grant outreach mission, ISU Extension and Outreach extends the institution’s resources far beyond campus and throughout Iowa – so that Iowa State may become the university that best serves its state. We envision our role as a capacity-building unit, to ensure the success of extension, engagement, and outreach activities of the faculty, departments, and colleges. With faculty, researchers, and partners in all the colleges, ISU Extension and Outreach engages citizens through research-based education and services throughout their lives, and develops diverse and meaningful partnerships with the people of Iowa. Through our purpose and partnerships, we increase the ability of Iowans to make informed decisions by applying relevant, needs-driven resources. Together we create significant impact throughout the state.

2. **Scholarship**: ISU Extension and Outreach needs additional measures and metrics in the promotion and tenure process to more clearly articulate the role of academic discovery and the impact we create in terms of scholarship. As members of Iowa State University’s academic units, we focus on the scope, sequence, and advancement of work, particularly through engagement with communities of place and interest. ISU Extension and Outreach has been a leader in engaged scholarship for more than one hundred years. ISU faculty with formal extension appointments, as well as faculty who informally pursue outreach to enhance research or teaching, all make significant contributions and should be recognized and supported in their scholarship.

3. **Continuing dialogue**: We welcome the opportunity to continue this dialogue with the Task Force on the Scholarship of Engagement and Outreach and others throughout the university. We look forward to contributing our expertise in this area and to continuing to explore and evolve the role of ISU Extension and Outreach within our land-grant university.
August 7, 2014
Kevin Schalinske, Ph.D.
Page Two

ISU Extension and Outreach focuses on issues centered on the needs of our state, the initiatives of our governor, and the priorities of our university. Thank you for this opportunity to respond to the task force report. We look forward to continuing the conversation about this crucial effort to recognize, define, and measure the scholarship of engagement and outreach throughout Iowa State University, and we believe ISU Extension and Outreach should be part of an ongoing conversation regarding our institution’s engagement efforts.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Cathann A. Kress
Vice President for Extension and Outreach

cc: Senior Vice President and Provost Jonathan Wickert
    ISU Deans