December 6, 2017

North Dakota State Board of Agricultural Research and Education
NDSU Dept. 7520, P.O. Box 6050
Fargo, ND 58108-6050

To whom it may concern:

My name is Kendra Erickson-Dockter and I am the project director of North Dakota Compass (ND Compass), a social indicators project that provides and promotes the use of credible North Dakota specific data to drive community change and improve the quality of life in North Dakota. A project of the Center for Social Research at North Dakota State University, ND Compass provides reliable and consistent information needed by North Dakota’s community, policy, non-profit, and business leaders to make informed decisions in an environment of continuous change.

With a shared vision, to improve the quality of life of North Dakota residents, ND Compass is a strong supporter and partner of NDSU Extension Service. Fellow ND Compass staff and I have partnered on various projects with the NDSU Extension, especially with the Center for Community Vitality and the Family Consumer Sciences program, since the project’s inception six years ago.

The partnership with NDSU Extension has been mutually beneficial. Extension leaders serve on ND Compass Steering and Advisory Committees and provide professional expertise and leadership support. Extension leaders’ commitment, ideas, and guidance have been instrumental during the project’s lifetime, from initial development to moving the project forward. In addition, website components such as Aging, Access to Healthy Food, and the Community Building Toolkit have been developed with input and support from various Extension professionals. Extension’s statewide reach helps ND Compass in its outreach and promotional efforts, making quality data and information available to North Dakota’s communities.

Extension leaders and agents have used ND Compass data and specific tools not only for their own use to identify strategic priorities and launch initiatives, but also to educate communities and foster data driven decision making throughout North Dakota. NDSU Extension leadership trains all agents in the use of ND Compass so they can provide communities with a tool that helps them make informed decisions to improve their quality of life.

ND Compass and NDSU Extension exchange presentations to share knowledge in North Dakota. The Extension professionals have provided presentations at the North Dakota Demographic Conference, which is co-organized by ND Compass. ND Compass also has presented webinars and talks at Extension hosted conferences and workshops (e.g., Rewriting the Rural Narrative, Extension Fall Conference). In addition, ND Compass website publishes monthly articles with the purpose to engage organizations and communities throughout the state and to inform and expand users’ knowledge base about topics.
Extension agents have written a few articles on a number of topics and other potentials are being slated for the future.

Overall, without the partnership, support, and investment of NDSU Extension, ND Compass would not be where it is today. Working with them has been a pleasure and I look forward to continuing this partnership in the future. I fully believe that NDSU Extension Service helps the state as a whole, one community and organization at a time!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. I would be happy to talk to you about our partnership and support of NDSU Extension.

Best Wishes,

*Kendra Erickson-Dockter*

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