



2017 Bonnie Teater

**Early Career Achievement Award
Recipient**

Susan Kelly

North Carolina State University

The Southern Rural Development Center is proud to honor Susan Kelly as the 2017 co-recipient of the *Bonnie Teater Community Development Early Career Achievement Award*. Kelly is a County Extension Director with North Carolina Cooperative Extension.

Kelly worked as the County Faculty and Extension Director in Sumter County, Florida, from 2005 to 2013 when she then became the County Extension Director in Richmond County, North Carolina. Much of her work in this county has been with local food system development. She implemented the Green Fields Initiative in support of the Stronger Economies Together Initiative, which has been recognized as a success by the USDA. As part of this initiative, Kelly also took the lead on the development of a regional food hub, the Sandhills Ag Innovation Center. In support of these two projects, Kelly was able to secure over \$650,000 in grants.

In addition to foods, Kelly focused her attention on the revitalization of downtown Rockingham, the county seat for Richmond County. She helped re-energize the Downtown Rockingham, and because of these efforts a historic downtown property was donated in 2015. Several other new businesses have or will be relocating to downtown Rockingham because of the assistance and expertise of Kelly. Also, as an extension agent much of Kelly's work has focused on program marketing and communication through a number of successful newsletters that she manages.

Along with her work for North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Kelly has also been very active with the National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals (NACDEP). She is currently in her second term as Southern Region Representative and member of the NACDEP Board of Directors. Previously, Kelly served as the Chair of the Communications Committee where she worked to create a member portal for the NACDEP website, as well as developed dynamic social media strategies for the organization as a whole. Kelly Nix, President of NACDEP, noted that, "Despite the overwhelming amount of work that everyone has, Susan consistently finds ways to help others on the board to enhance the overall Mission of NACDEP."

On behalf of Kelly's nomination, Sheri Schwab, Associate Director and Director of County Operations for North Carolina Cooperative Extension stated, "She is a dedicated professional who has grown and nurtured her community into a better version of itself, and given them the tools to build and sustain this for themselves. She is one of those CRD professionals who loves a challenge, because she has what it takes to work through and with others to bring people together."

Clearly, Kelly's portfolio of contributions in the field of community development embody the spirit of this prestigious award. Thus, it is most fitting that Susan Kelly be honored as the Southern Rural Development Center 2017 co-recipient of the *Bonnie Teater Community Development Early Career Achievement Award*.



About the Bonnie Teater Early Achievement Award

Bonnie Teater is a special individual to friends of the Southern Rural Development Center. For 30 years, she provided valuable support and day-to-day assistance to the Center as a member of its staff. She served as an inspiration to all because of the dedication she brought to her work and her passion for the rural development research and Extension outreach mission of the region's land-grant schools. She currently is enjoying retirement in her home state of Kentucky.

The Awards

Bonnie Teater Community Development Educator Lifetime Achievement Award

(Awarded on even number years.)

The award is for superior lifetime work by an individual (not a team) who has made an important contribution to the Extension Community Development area.

Qualifications

- Be currently employed by one of the 29 land-grant universities located in the Southern Rural Development Center region,
- Serve as an administrator, specialist or agent who has worked in the Extension CD area for at least TEN years at the state, multi-county and/or county levels
- NOTE: An individual who has retired over the past 12 months and who, at the time of his/her retirement, met the conditions outlined above, is eligible for consideration.

Bonnie Teater Community Development Early Career Achievement Award

(Awarded on odd number years.)

This award honors the work of a "rising star" who has already achieved great things in his/her early career in community development.

Qualifications

- Be currently employed by one of the 29 land-grant universities located in the Southern Rural Development Center region,
- Serve as an administrator, specialist or agent who has worked in the Extension CD area for 10 years or less; and
- Have an impressive portfolio of Extension-related programs and publications.