The Extension Educator serves as a regular, full time, 12 month academic professional with primary responsibility for the development, delivery, and evaluation of educational programs supporting the mission of the University of Illinois Extension. 4-H Youth Development Educators support one of the four core Extension program areas and within that program area may focus on one or more of the following interdisciplinary initiatives: Energy and the Environment; Food Safety and Security; Economic Development and Workforce Preparedness; Family Health, Financial Security and Wellness; Youth Development. Programmatic objectives of Extension Educators will be consistent with national and statewide initiatives considered of significant importance to residents of the state of Illinois.

Extension Educators will be expected to deliver research-based educational programs and to work within team settings that may consist of other Extension Educators, community college professionals, and faculty within and outside of the College of ACES. The establishment of professional networks as well as the development of relationships with key stakeholder groups is vital to the success of Extension Educators. Extension Educators will be expected to deliver educational programs not only within their assigned multi-county unit, but as requested, to clientele within other units.

The Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development is expected to concentrate programmatically as a Multi-County Unit Educator. This programmatic concentration includes: Provide overall leadership to the entire 4-H Youth Development Program in a multi-county unit, focusing on 4-H Clubs, 4-H Groups, and Youth Education Initiatives. Ensure program planning, program monitoring, and program evaluation that are consistent with local needs and statewide priorities. Implement organizational systems and programs by teaming with Program Coordinators, Community Workers, and Volunteers who assist with program management functions and teaching roles when appropriate. Guide all program expansion and program quality processes. Educate youth about critical youth development issues. Teach and provide training and support to skilled volunteers who teach and work with youth. Have expertise in youth development; youth program development; volunteerism; equity, access, and opportunity; partnerships; and organizational systems which is shared with others through volunteer trainings and professional development for staff.

Each of the following units has a full-time Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development opening:

- Unit 4, Carroll/Lee/Whiteside
- Unit 11, Fulton/Mason/Peoria/Tazewell
- Additional positions may become available in other locations

This is a security-sensitive position. Comprehensive background checks, including but not limited to a criminal conviction information check, a CANTS check, and a review of the Registered Sex Offender list, will be conducted.
Specific responsibilities of Extension Educators are as follows:

- Provide program leadership, interpret and integrate information, teach in the field of designated expertise, maintain the competencies to develop and deliver educational programming, and assist clients with the appropriate resource bases.
- Assess the needs of local clientele in a systematic and analytical manner. This may include networking and collaborating with community organizations and other relevant groups.
- Within the designated area(s) of specialization, develop innovative curricula and programs to address local needs as well as to mesh with the broader state and national interdisciplinary initiatives.
- Deliver high impact programs to diverse audiences utilizing a selection of innovative delivery mechanisms to optimize reach and effectiveness.
- Evaluate the impact of program initiatives in a planned and statistically relevant fashion. Evaluation plans should focus not only on short-term impacts but also on long-term changes in clientele practices.
- Develop effective and contemporary approaches to communicate with clientele. This may include constantly evolving electronic technologies (e.g. twitter, facebook, blogs, e-learning, etc.).
- Compete for internal and external resources to enhance the development of innovative educational programs with potential for high impact.
- Establish professional relationships and participate in campus-based partnerships that tie academic programs and research to complement Extension programming by partnering with Extension Specialists and/or faculty members on research projects as appropriate within the initiatives.
- Develop professional collaborations with the County Director and Extension Council Members.
- Market and represent Extension’s interests to external partners and stakeholders in areas related to expertise.
- Cooperate with the County Director to achieve budget goals and relevant grant initiatives.
- Support voluntary educational delivery systems with relevant subject matter expertise.
- Serve as an effective team member and volunteer for leadership roles as appropriate.
- Comply with all reporting deadlines and requirements (e.g. plans of work, activity and impact reporting, etc.)
- As needed, accept statewide responsibilities as requested by the Program Leader.
- As requested, supervise civil service personnel.
- Be an active member within a professional society(s) to keep abreast of changes within your discipline.
- Continually seek professional development opportunities to enhance competency in subject matter area.
- Assist with and support the total University of Illinois Extension program.
- Comply with all University of Illinois Extension Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity policies and guidelines.
• Perform other duties that contribute to University of Illinois Extension programming, as assigned.
• Local, regional and (limited) statewide travel required; personal transportation required.

**Administrative Relationship:** Extension Educators are administratively responsible to the County Director.

**Program Relationship:** Extension Educators are programmatically responsible to the Program Leader(s) for the delivery of programs that mesh with identified national and state priorities.

**Qualifications**
• Required: Master’s degree related to subject matter emphasis from an accredited institution of higher education. Candidates with a Master’s degree in progress may be considered for interviews, but degree must be completed by hire date. Strong oral and written communication skills. Evidence of strong interpersonal skills and ability to work within a team environment.
• Preferred: Experience within the specialty field is highly desirable. Teaching experience in informal and formal settings. Demonstrated ability to build and maintain diverse networks.

**Additional Information**
The position is a full-time, benefits-eligible, non-tenure academic professional position appointed on a 12-month service basis. The expected start date is as soon as possible after the closing date. Salary is commensurate with experience and qualifications.

**Application Procedure:** To apply, go to [http://go.illinois.edu/21656](http://go.illinois.edu/21656) and click Apply Now. Log in to your account and upload a cover letter and resume addressing your qualifications as they align with the job description. In addition, step one of the online application will require the names and contact information of three professional references. Transcripts may be requested at a later date.

To receive full consideration, all requested application materials must be submitted via the online system by the close date of **August 2, 2012**. For further information please contact Denise Legvold at dlegvold@illinois.edu.

*Illinois is an Affirmative Action /Equal Opportunity Employer and welcomes individuals with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and ideas who embrace and value diversity and inclusivity. ([www.inclusiveillinois.illinois.edu](http://www.inclusiveillinois.illinois.edu)).*