

Letter and Introduction from Leadership

Dear WSU Extension Master Gardener Program Volunteers,

Thank you for your dedication and the efforts you put forth to help WSU serve its land-grant mission through the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program. We want to express our gratitude for all those who took time to participate in the strategic planning process. From the meetings to the surveys and everything in between, your feedback and input shaped what you read before you and will shape the future of our program.

Although we faced many challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important to talk about the successes. 2020 and 2021 were filled with uncertainty, hardship, and fatigue; but through the difficult times, we persevered. We found innovative new ways to bring resources to those in need and came together to support each other. WSU Extension Pierce County Master Gardeners built a pavilion, sold thousands of tomato plants, improved our garden accessibility, delivered numerous horticulture presentations, and answered homeowner questions from afar. We are strong; we are resilient; we are dedicated.

WSU Extension Master Gardeners recognized the need to better adapt to the needs of our community, especially in light of the disruptions and new challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. Engaging our membership, community partners, and those we serve in the Strategic Planning process positions us to better fulfill our Mission to provide relevant support to our community. The continued updating and refinement of this Strategic Plan sets us up for success now and in the future.

It is important to remember that this is a living document and a living process. This is the first time we have created a strategic plan, and there will be a lot that we learn from it. We will assess and adapt and through mistakes and successes, learn what works best for us. Your participation and feedback are integral to making this a continued success.

We are committed to creating a healthy organization for our volunteers so that we are able to deliver programs that connect residents and communities to research-based horticulture information to create healthy and sustainable environments while improving personal and collective quality of life. Thank you for your commitment to our program and to serving our communities.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Marquis, WSU Extension Master Gardener Program Leader

Jim Kropf, WSU Extension Pierce County Director

Caitlin Sprague, WSU Extension Pierce County Master Gardener Program Manager