



NEWS RELEASE

Central State University
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For Immediate Release

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**Black History Month:
Community and Economic Development Educator Amber Twitty
creates strong individuals, businesses and communities through her CSU Extension work**

Wilberforce, Ohio --- Although she may be new to extension, Central State University Extension (CSUE) Community and Economic Development Regional Educator Amber Twitty brings more than 30 years of direct experience to the organization.

Twitty joined CSUE in 2020 for the opportunity to use her skills to develop innovative programming for residents, businesses and communities throughout southern Ohio.

“My responsibilities include creating programming to address issues in a sustainable, measurable and impactful manner,” Twitty says. “I work with individuals, businesses, organizations and communities.”

In her role as a CSU Regional Community and Economic Development Educator, Twitty has been instrumental in the following new programs:

---Small/Agri Business Informational Summit: An annual summit hosted by the Community and Economic Development team to inform the business sector of CSU Extension, governmental and quasi-governmental resources available to them. It also serves as a forum to build a strong connection between small businesses and CSU Extension.

---CED Office Hour Live!: CED Office Hour Live is a weekly, live, open discussion with Central State University Extension's Community & Economic Development (CED) team. It is an online platform that is used to engage the residents and businesses of the State of Ohio about all things CED. This program has reached audiences not only throughout the State of Ohio, but in Georgia and Washington, DC.

---Ready, Set, Grow! – Agriculture: An opportunity to work with individuals interested in farming to take a deeper dive into learning more about the business aspects of farming; currently working with both CSUE Farming Incubator and Beginning Farming programs teaching farmers in Dayton, Trotwood Springfield, Ohio.

---Entre to Entrepreneurship Initiative: Program designed to introduce the self-employment option for returning citizens in the State of Ohio working with both those who are currently incarcerated, have previously been incarcerated or have been convicted of a crime in the past. Program collaborates with the Montgomery County Office of Reentry, Hamilton County Office of Reentry and will be working with the Ohio State Prison - Richland Correctional Institution located in Mansfield, Ohio.

---Record Sealing Clinics: Collaborate with agencies, individuals and organizations to plan and implement record sealing clinics.

---Driver License Reinstatement Clinics: Collaborate with agencies, individuals and organizations to plan and implement driver license reinstatement clinics as having a valid driver's license opens up access to jobs and increases one's independence.

---A Step-Up Workforce Development Program: CED team partners with small businesses to provide additional soft skill training to staff being onboarded and existing staff, as well as work with small businesses to connect them to employer incentive programming that reduces their overhead expenses.

---The CED Community Roundtable: An opportunity to meet with a group of community stakeholders to introduce ourselves, and to listen to wants and needs from the community members directly.

A native of Cincinnati, Twitty received her undergraduate degree in business administration with a concentration in finance as well as completed additional graduate coursework in community planning from the University of Cincinnati.

Prior to joining CSUE, Twitty served as ERC Program Coordinator, Education and Research Center for the University of Cincinnati; Grant Administrator, Department of Psychiatry, University of Cincinnati; and Executive Vice President, Economic and Workforce Inclusion, for Make It Plan Consulting, LLC, Cincinnati.

Twitty is a management professional who has worked in all aspects of community development and planning projects from building housing, highways, organizations and community blocks, to helping people move towards self-sufficiency. She has worked with businesses --- both large and small --- in the areas of capacity building, diversity and inclusion, organizational development, grants administration, leadership development, program development and evaluation, workforce development, neighborhood business districts, stakeholder outreach and planning, within the non-profit, academia, government and private sectors.

She also has extensive experience in designing and implementing youth employment, and other workforce development programming for hard-to-serve and non-traditional workers, such as veterans and returning citizens.

In addition to her “behind the scenes” volunteerism in the community and investment in individuals (especially youth), Twitty commits her time to groups who are change agents. She previously served as a member of the Health Collaborative Consumer Council, which works with health professionals in the areas of strategic planning for the Greater Cincinnati region, quality of care, payment structures, self-empowerment of consumers on their health and improving regional health outcomes through the power of the consumer voice.

Twitty is an Dr. O’Dell Owens Fellow alumna and is certified by the U.S. Department of Justice National Institute of Corrections as an Offender Workforce Specialist, in Emotional Intelligence and Diversity from the Emotional Intelligence and Diversity Institute at UCLA; two certifications from the University of South Florida in Inclusive & Ethical Leadership; and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Workplace.

She has been recognized for her impactful work in the economic inclusion space. She was also honored as a 2018 “Working Woman of Cincinnati” by the Morgan A. Owens Brand and The Cincinnati Herald.

Making an impact is always the goal of Twitty.

“I feel good about my efforts when I get a ‘thank you’ from a client for helping them ‘level up’ with creating or growing their business, opening doors for an individual to have accessibility to a dream or a goal and helping communities gain the tools to be more resilient,” she says.

Twitty encourages others to consider extension as a career choice.

“If you want to have a positive and impactful change on individuals, businesses or communities, then a career in extension is for you. You must be willing to listen, willing to be innovative and committed to being a change agent,” she says. “My goal is always to be a catalyst to help individuals, businesses and communities reach their goals.”

For more information about CSUE Community and Economic Development, contact Twitty at atwitty@CentralState.edu.



Central State University Extension (CSUE) Community and Economic Development Regional Educator Amber Twitty

About Central State University: Central State University, located in Wilberforce, Ohio, is a regionally accredited 1890 Land-Grant University with a 134-year tradition of preparing students from diverse backgrounds and experiences for leadership, research and service. The University, which has been named HBCU of the Year by HBCU Digest, fosters academic excellence within a nurturing environment and provides a strong liberal arts foundation and STEM-Ag curriculum leading to professional careers and advanced studies globally.

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