NC Farm to Early Care & Education Collaborative April 30, 2020

Jessica Burroughs, Collaborative Manager

W.K. KELLOGG FOUNDATION

NC Farm to Early Care & Education

Our Mission

CEFS develops and promotes just and equitable food and farming systems that conserve natural resources, strengthen communities, improve health outcomes, and provide economic opportunities in North Carolina and beyond.

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Center for Environmental Farming Systems: A Partnership

North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University (N.C. A&T)

North Carolina State University (NC State)

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA & CS)

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Breakthrough Series Collaborative Structure

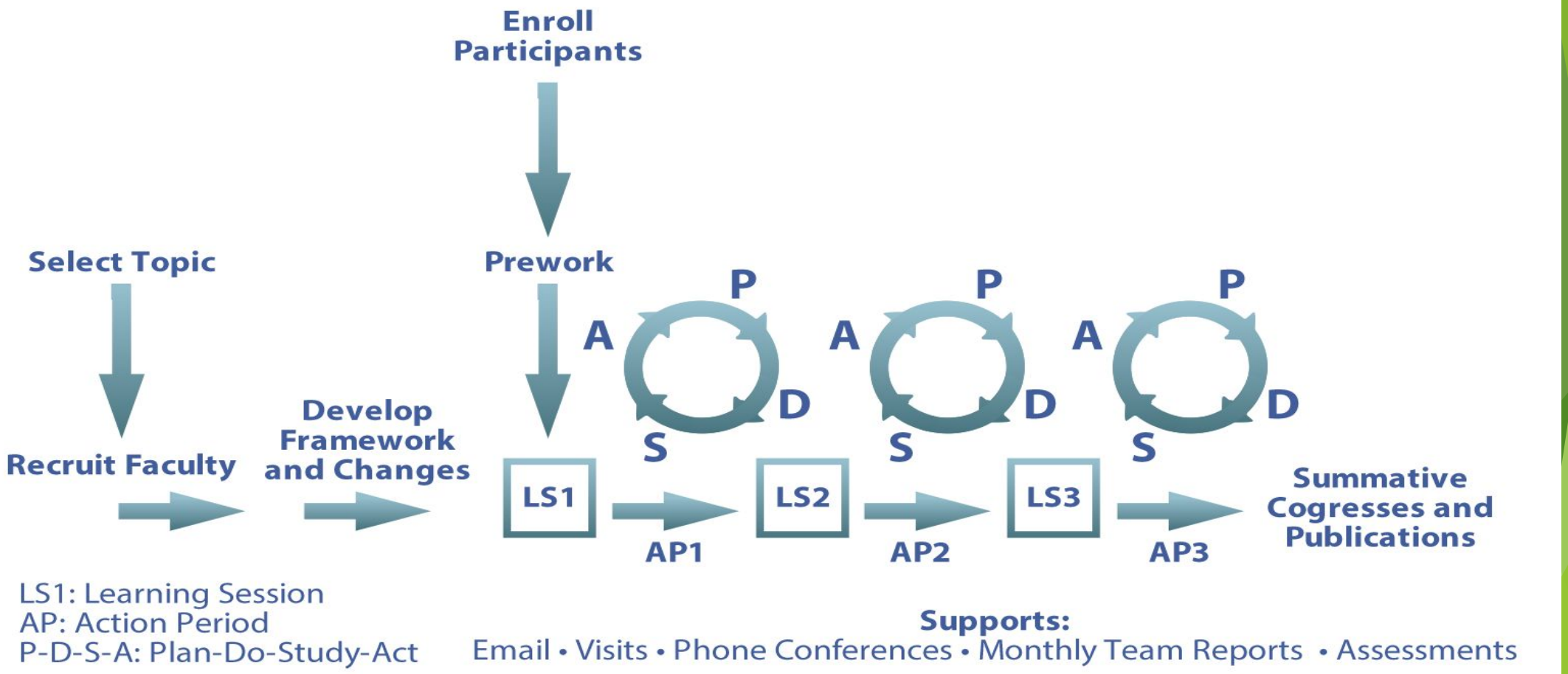

Diagram courtesy of National Implementation Research Network (NIRN)

The Collaborative Structure

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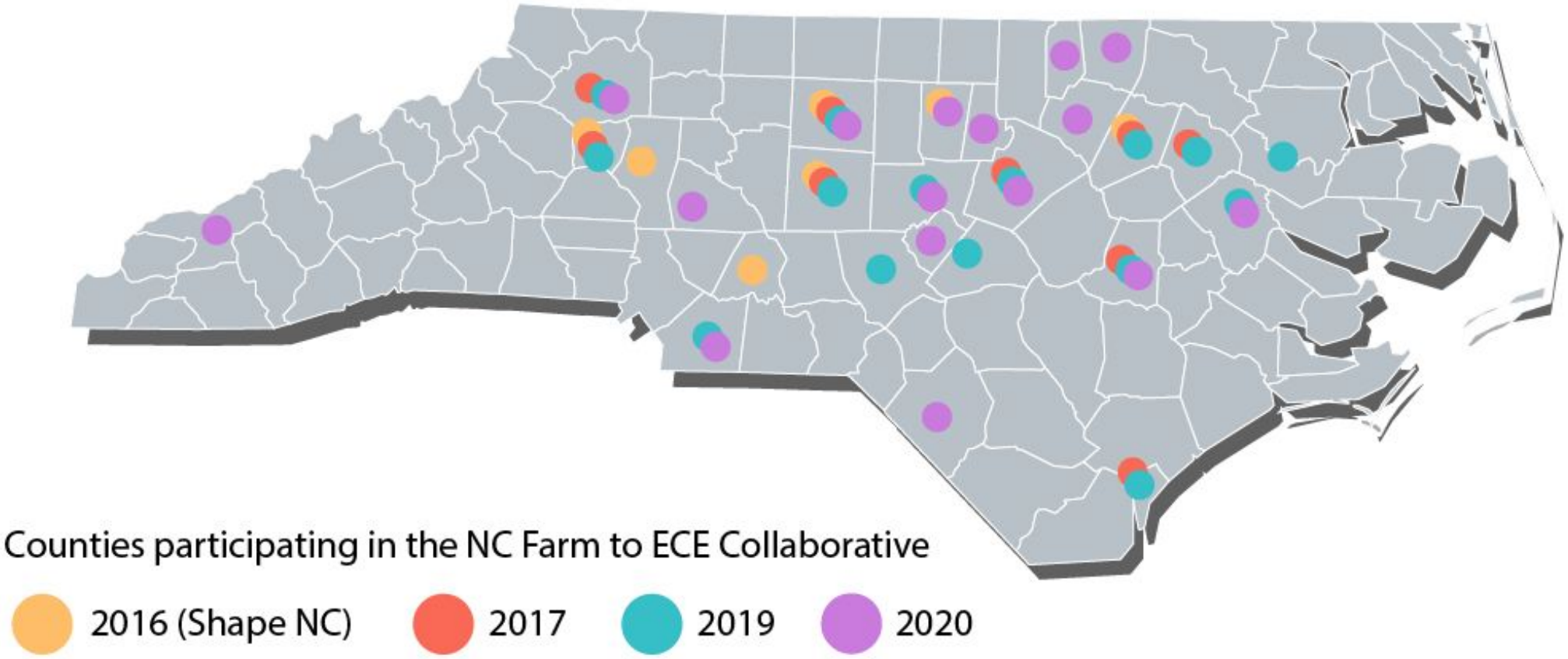
Collaborative Local Teams



Why the Collaborative?

- Connect the food system and ECE realms in local communities
- Connect ECE providers working on Farm to ECE throughout the state to share successes and address challenges
- Encourage and celebrate farm to ECE activities throughout the state

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The Collaborative Process

The Collaborative Method accelerates progress and aids in **sustainability**:

- Learning through **Connections + Networking**
- **Local Teams:** Bringing folks from all aspects of your local child care community together
- **Affinity groups:** Connecting by team role across NC
- Face-to-Face **Learning Sessions**

Learning and Shifting is Part of the Process!

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Farm to ECE Collaborative Participants ...

Cultivate the Farm to ECE movement by increasing children's access to fresh, local food and enhancing their experiences in growing, cooking with, and eating healthy food in child care settings.

How does the Collaborative accomplish this?

- Sharing the results of our successes
- Working together to sustain gains made
- Exchanging new ideas for addressing challenges
- Learning from each others' experiments
- Using the Farm to ECE module of Go NAP SACC
- Creating a culture of health and wellness

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Core Components of the Collaborative Model Include:

- Participation in a Community of Practice
- Interaction and sharing of ideas, improvements, and lessons learned
- Use of data and other feedback to identify and address barriers to implementing best practices
- Implementation of strategies for sustaining and spreading improvements

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Participation in a Community of Practice: Storyboards

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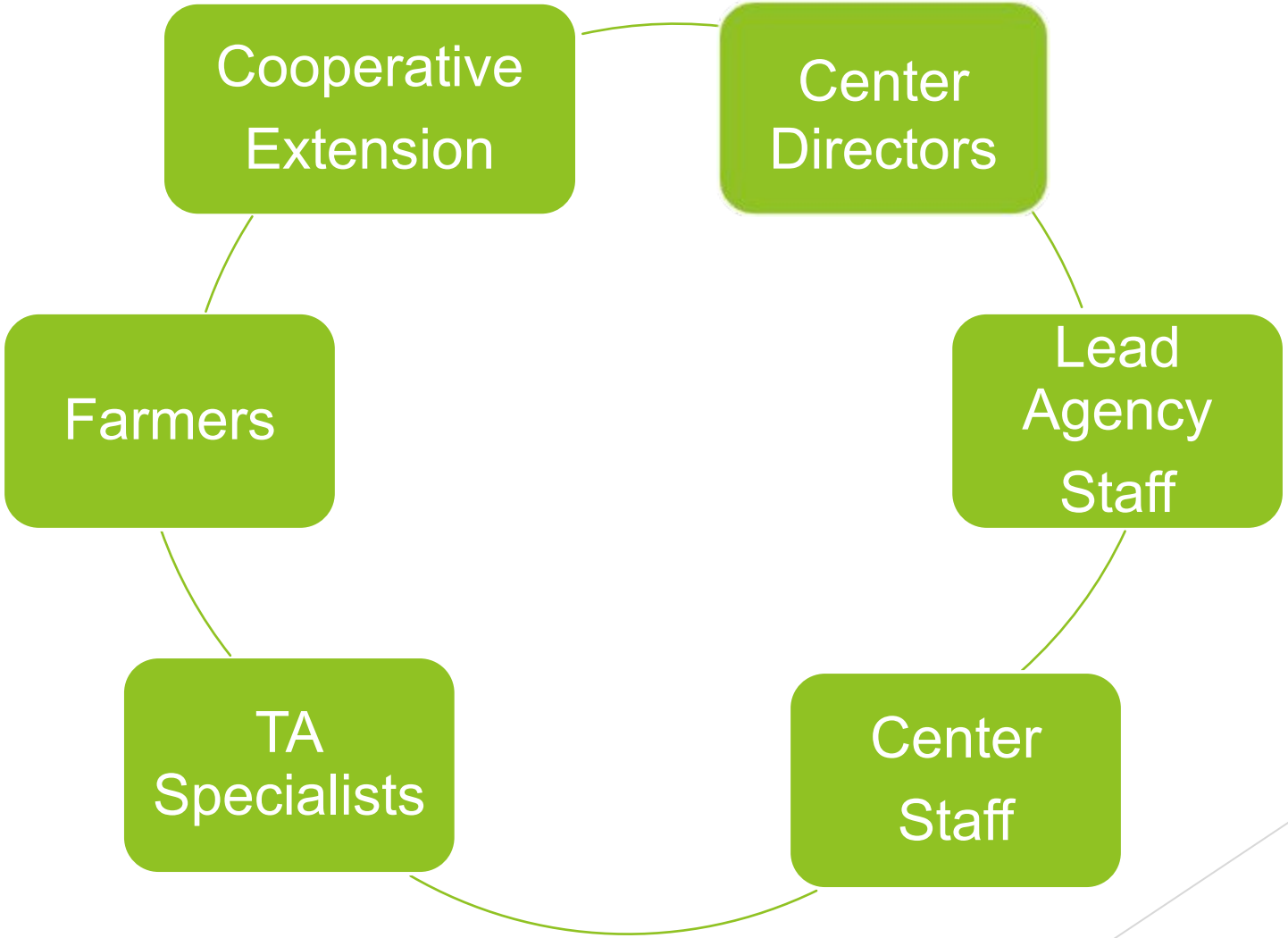
Affinity Groups:
Building a Community of Practice with Affinity Groups



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County Teams

- Technical Assistance with Local Food Purchasing Methods
- Uncovering training needs and developing trainings with local partners
- Advancing Go NAP SACC Farm to ECE Best Practices
- Incorporating and building models on foundation of inclusion and participation
- Mini-grants to build Farm to ECE infrastructure in kitchens, classrooms, and outdoor learning environments

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Collaborative Mentors

Jessica Burroughs
Farm to ECE Collaborative Manager
Mentor Director

Mona Scotton
Director
Mona's Kiddie Care Childcare Center

Ana Gallo
Teacher
A Safe Place Raleigh, NC

Mackenzie Withington
Agricultural Representative
Lily Den Farm

Der Xiong Holcomb
Family & Consumer Science Agent
NC Cooperative Extension-Alexander County Center

Heidi Lineberry
Director
Sunflower Seeds Childcare Center

Natalie Pond
TA Provider
Smart Start – New Hanover County

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Farm to Early Care and Education Initiative

Ronda Taylor Bullock, PhD Abby Lublin

Racial Equity Integrated throughout Collaborative

1. **Full-Day Racial Equity** Training (Regional)
2. **Learning Session 1:** 1619 Podcast
3. **Learning Session 2:** Dismantling Racism in Food Systems
4. **Learning Session 3:** Literacy Boxes

Core Components of the Collaborative Model Include:

- Use of Plan-Do-Study-Act cycles (PDSAs)— this method allows for teams to create and test changes on a small scale, encouraging ideas to be tried immediately. Instead of spending more time on the abstract process of planning, more time is spent learning from ideas and action

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PDSA Cycles & Metrics

Measuring Progress

EXAMPLE for Little Dreamers Child Care Center					
Selected Best Practice Indicators (abbreviated)			Time 1 Score (April '17)	Time 2 Score (June '17)	Time 3 Score (Aug '17)
Farm to ECE	LF #4	Food traditions and Exposure	1	2	3
	GAR #9	Amount of gardening equipment	2	2	3
	GAR #13	Garden activities	2	3	2
	E& PD #18	Where foods come from	1	2	4
	E& PD #23	Written Policy	2	3	4
		Average Score	1.6	2.4	3.2

Note: Your score is linked to your answer choice. A "4", or the answer choice furthest to the right on the assessment sheet, is best practice. Example:

Local Foods #2: On average, from spring to fall, locally grown fruits or vegetables are art of meals or snacks 3 times per week or more.

Always	*Often*	*Sometimes*	*Never*
1	*2*	*3*	*4*

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Farm to ECE Collaborative Successes

- Walking trips to the farmers market with parents and scavenger hunts
- Meeting and partnering with new folks in their communities
- Direct relationships between farmers and centers
- Weekly pop-up farmers markets at centers – accessible to both parents and neighboring directors

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Farm to ECE Collaborative Successes

- Produce box drop-off for both parents and directors
- Increased parent engagement
- Changing policies to reflect commitment to local foods and F2ECE best practices
- Surveying parents about interest in engagement and what they would like to see
- Trying out recipes at home to gauge children's interest

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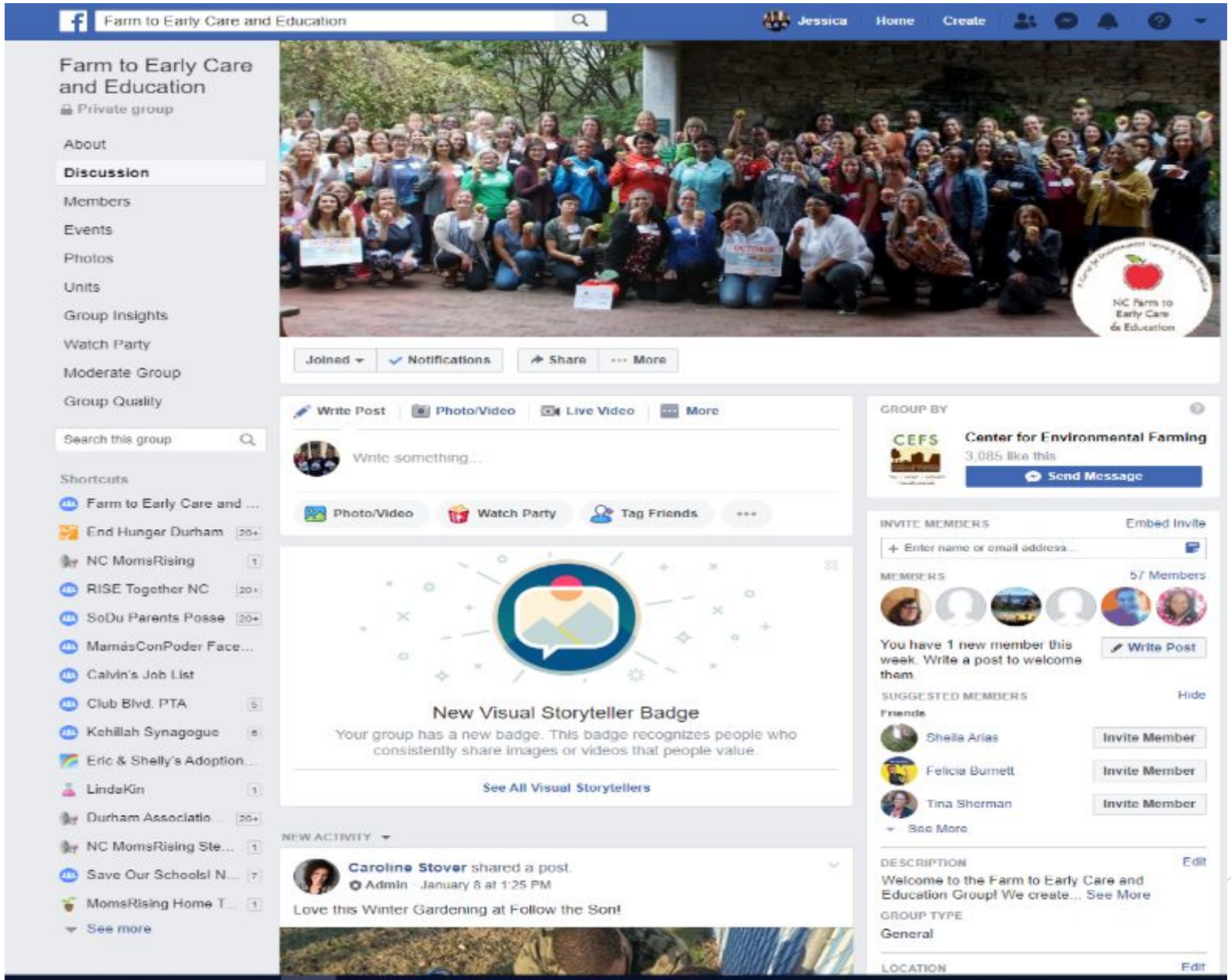
COVID19 Adaptations

- Virtual Check-Ins
- Training Webinars
- Virtual Field Trips
- Resource Newsletter & FB Page
- Continued Affinity Group Meeting
- Learning Bursts

Facebook Page!