

Good afternoon,

I'm writing you today to inform you that on June 5, 2024, MSU Extension involuntarily terminated me from my position as a Community Nutrition Instructor with the Health & Nutrition Institute. I will miss working with you very much.

MSU Extension ended my employment because it advised me that it did not believe I could continue working effectively with partners such as yourself, while fulfilling the office of Ottawa County Commissioner to which I was recently elected. This was the sole reason for my termination. There was no job performance issue, personal or professional impropriety, nor any other cause for MSU Extension's decision.

I disagree wholeheartedly with MSU Extension's reasoning and my termination. I am pursuing legal remedies and seeking to be reinstated to my position. Unfortunately, until that time, my work with your organization is effectively paused.

Prior to my last day, I provided my Supervising Educator as thorough an understanding of the scope of my work with your organization as I could. This included both long- and short-term programming goals. It is important to me that the work continue if possible.

However, it has been my observation that Extension typically does not have the structure to reach out to reestablish a relationship and continue programming with another CNI when the originating Instructor leaves. I wanted you to understand what has happened and why you may not hear from me in my professional capacity in the near future, in case Extension is unable to pick up the relationship with another CNI.

I am sorry to essentially leave the combined effects of our years of work together in this manner, and hope at some point soon to pick up where we left off.

If you have any questions regarding your programming, I suggest sending them to either Scott Korpak, Director of District 7, or Stephanie Marino, Supervising Educator for Districts 7&9. Their contact information can be found at:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/ottawa/county-extension-office>

If you have any questions for me, please message me here.

It has been my pleasure to work with you during my time in Allegan and Ottawa counties. You are doing amazing work, and we accomplished wonderful outcomes together that I will always be proud of.

Sincerely,

Chris