

# IF I KNEW THEN WHAT I KNOW NOW—BRINGING NEW ECONOMISTS INTO THE FAMILY

Presented by:

Evan Stewart

Jesse Morrill-Winter

Susan Durden

special guests

8 December 2022



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®



# LOOKING FORWARD



## New Economist Attendees

### Welcome

Jeff Strahan

### Why, What, Who, How, When, Where

Susan Durden

### Overview of Oct. 2022 Class

Evan Stewart

### Most Popular Session- demo

Jesse Morrill-Winter

### New Economist Experiences

Richard Nugent, HEC

Sung Lee, IWR

Eva Sala, SAM

### Poll, Questions, Discussion







# THE BASICS



## Why?

**Feb. 2015 20 new economists**

**Technical training? Integrate with CoP? Agency Awareness?**

## What?

**Triple E—**

**Economist Education and Engagement**

**Cohorts: 2-year cycle**

**Technical, Career, POCs/Experts**

**Mysteries of USACE**

## Who?

**MSC Economists**

**New, Return, Refresh**





# THE BASICS

- How?
  - CoP support
  - No tuition
  - HQ, MSC, IWR teach
- When?
  - Yearly, in person
  - Regular calls
- Where?
  - HEC, Davis, CA
  - Portland, Minneapolis, Nashville





# KNOWLEDGE CHECK: WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING HAS NOT BEEN PART OF THE NEW ECONOMISTS' TRAINING

**What Muppet Are You?**

**What Is Your Superpower?**

**Star Wars**

**A Rap Song**

**Click on the Annotation option *N* in the top right-hand corner of your screen (to the left of the participant list if open) and then use the Pencil Tool or checkmark to mark your response.**



# 2022 ECON CAPSTONE COURSE

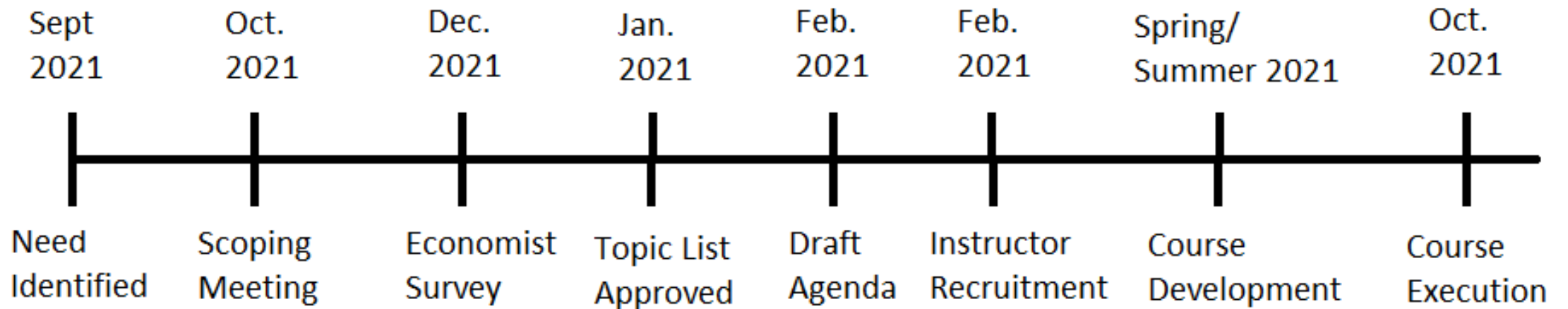


2-Yr EEE Virtual Training



Dr. Moser

In Person Capstone Course





# 2022 ECON CAPSTONE COURSE



## Topics Covered

- ❖ Career Paths, Certifications, Economist Opportunities
  - ❖ Interacting with Technical Experts
  - ❖ Coordinating with H&H Engineers
  - ❖ Cost Engineering for Economists
- ❖ Deep Dive into Other Social Effects
- ❖ Jan 2021 ASA Memo Lessons Learned
  - ❖ NED Plan vs. Comprehensive Plan
    - ❖ Daily Leadership Panels
    - ❖ Nightly Teambuilding

## Feedback - What was good?

*“I really enjoyed having lectures surrounding the interaction between Econ and other disciplines. Actually having those people in class and the discussions we had were very valuable.”*

*“Social hours! The group having a plan for where and when to go after class was extremely useful. The networking opportunities and conversations we had outside of the class were invaluable.”*

*“Keeping it in person and having nightly outings was really beneficial. I also really liked the mix of backgrounds of the instructors. It was good having a diverse group: OWPR, IWR, PCX, District, etc.”*

*“Anytime Richard [Nugent], Chris [Bouquot], or Jeff [Strahan] opened their mouths to say anything. Incredible to have all three in one place.”*



# IF I KNEW THEN WHAT I KNOW NOW...



1. Building relationships is as important as building competency
2. Raise your hand, volunteer yourself for interesting projects
3. If you want to learn to do hard things, learn them early in your career when you have more time and flexibility, you will become what you make yourself, self-study and diligence are important
4. Learn how to work in a team environment - challenge others and be comfortable being challenged
5. Don't box yourself in, learn about all the different things you could do in this agency
6. Do the right thing, not the easy thing – that's not always easy, don't be afraid to pick up the phone
7. Learn to code
  - C#
  - Python
8. Google is a powerful tool, use it
9. Seek developmental opportunities
  - Planning Associates
  - NDMU Graduate Certificate in Risk Management
  - Developmental Assignments
10. You are not stuck here, being a USACE employee is a choice that you have made, understanding that is important





# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



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- Will Lehman, Economist, HEC
- Nick Lutz, Economist, HEC
- Jason Needham, PE, Lead Consequences Specialist, RMC



# QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION

