

## Agenda

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- 10:00 a.m. -10:45 a.m.    **Introduction and information sharing**
- 10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.    **Update on the College of Agriculture and the future plan for Purdue Extension**  
Dr. Bernie Engel, Glenn W. Sample Dean of Agriculture, Purdue University
- 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.    **Lunch Break**
- 12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.    **Indiana childcare policy, state and importance of availability and the challenges faced in expanding child care in rural areas**  
Dr. David Purpura, Purdue Professor, Department of Human Development and Family Science  
Adam Alson, Owner of Alson Farms and Co-founder of Appleseed Childhood Education, Inc.
- 1:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.    **Break**
- 2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.    **Discussion and Q & A: Indiana childcare policy, state and importance of availability and the challenges faced in expanding child care in rural areas**  
Dr. David Purpura, Purdue Professor, Department of Human Development and Family Science  
Adam Alson, Owner of Alson Farms and Co-founder of Appleseed Childhood Education, Inc.
- 2:45 p.m. – 3:00 pm    **Wrap up, explore topics and dates for future meetings**

### **Speaker Bio**

**Dr. Bernie Engel** Bernie Engel is the Glenn W. Sample Dean of Agriculture at Purdue University. He served as senior associate dean of agricultural research and graduate education at Purdue University from 2019-2023. Engel served as department head of Agricultural and Biological Engineering from 2005-2019 at Purdue University. Engel is a leading global expert in the development and application of water quality models and environmental decision support systems. The models address agricultural, rural, urban and mixed land-use watersheds and a range of constituents including nutrients, pesticides and soil erosion. Based on the citations of his research, he is in the top 1% of his field globally.

**Dr. David Purpura** Dr. David Purpura joined the Purdue faculty in the fall of 2012 after completing a US Department of Education Institute of Education Sciences postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Illinois in the College of Education. I received my Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Florida State University in 2010. You could say that I study the ABCs of the 123s! In my research, I focus on understanding how young children in preschool through 3rd grade learn math, how to identify children at-risk for later math difficulties, and how to best intervene on these skills early. My current focus is on developing and evaluating interventions using picture books and games to support preschool children's early mathematics skills, particularly for dual language learners. Over the last several years, and in collaboration with a professional author and illustrator, we've developed a series of six picture books with math concepts embedded in them. Through intervention studies funded by the Heising-Simons Foundation and the National Science Foundation we're currently evaluating how these books can be used to improve the early mathematics skills of monolingual English speakers and dual language learners (Spanish/English). In my lab, we also focus on both the home and school contexts spanning the preschool and elementary school periods, as well as on the role of language and cultural practices in mathematics development for diverse populations.

**Adam Alson** Adam Alson is a third-generation corn and soybean farmer from Rensselaer, Indiana. He holds an economics degree from the University of Chicago and worked as a bond trader for Bank of America in New York City before returning home to run the family farm. Adam and his wife, Carlee Tressel Alson, founded Appleaseed Childhood Education in 2020. Appleaseed is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation whose mission is to address the lack of quality child care options in rural Jasper County, IN and surrounding areas. Through the committed work of a volunteer board over the past four years, Appleaseed has developed and executed a model to create and fund affordable, quality child care in rural Indiana through creating partnerships with local employers, local government, and local philanthropy. Appleaseed 's first project, the 70-seat high-quality child care Appletree Rensselaer, opened in 2023.