

FALL 2024

THE VOICE

Association Newsletter



Shape Tomorrow: The Benefits of Joining IEPYE

IEPYE is the professional association for Illinois 4-H staff – made up of your colleagues (active members) and retirees (life members) – that help promote, enhance, strengthen, and advocate for the personal and professional development of Extension professions engaged in youth programming.

As a member, you have access to special professional development opportunities, award and recognition opportunities at the state, multi-state, and national levels, national conferences and networking events, and more.



IEPYE Networking Event

Date: November 19th

Time: 4:30 PM

Location: Houlihan's, Champaign (inside of iHotel)
Food and beverages will be available to purchase.

Dues are \$105 for state and national membership (combined) or \$25 for state-only membership.

\$50 OFF YOUR DUES! All academic staff members – both new and returning – who submit their membership and pay their dues by November 19 (during our IEPYE meeting at Annual Conference) will be entered into a drawing to receive \$50 off their dues payment for this year. We will draw four members at this time.

SEND NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS TO
DANIELLE GAPINSKI AT DES85@ILLINOIS.EDU

2024-2025 Board Members

OFFICERS

Martha Ebbesmeyer, President

Katie Duitsman, Vice President

Kasey Kemme, Secretary

Jennifer Peterson, Treasurer

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Michele Aavang,
Professional Development

Andrea Farrier
Member Recognition

Katie Duitsman
Membership

Danielle Gapinski
*Public Relations & Information/
Newsletter*

Sara Marten
Advisory

Madonna Weese
Life Member

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Kelly Lafferty
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Northern

Carissa Nelson
East Central

Jessica Jaffry
West Central

Kristi Stout
Southern



Grow Together: Join Our Mentor/Mentee Opportunity Today

Foster growth, learning, and mutual support by becoming a mentor/mentee in IEPYE. Mentorship provides personalized guidance, insights, and development while mentors, in turn, gain fresh perspectives, sharpen their leadership skills, and help others grow. This relationship builds a sense of community and shared purpose while also potentially opening doors to new opportunities, collaborations, and professional networks that last beyond the formal mentorship.

If this sounds like a good fit for you, you may sign up to participate when registering for IEPYE.



Make an Impact! Join a committee and shape the future

Joining a committee is a powerful way to make a meaningful impact, expand professional skills, and build relationships. IEPYE offers several committee opportunities to collaborate and contribute fresh ideas. These include Professional Development, Member Recognition, Membership, Public Relations & Information/Newsletter, Advisory, and Life Member.

A brief description and opportunity to sign up for a committee is included in the IEPYE sign up which you can find here: [Join IEPYE](#)

[IEPYE WEBSITE](#) | [JOIN THE IEPYE FACEBOOK GROUP](#)

Professional Development Opportunities

PD in Your PJs: Cahokia Mounds | November 18, 6-7 pm Webinar | [Sign up](#)

Hear a Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site Staff Member discuss the ancient City of Cahokia, a site in present-day Illinois which was inhabited by Indigenous people from about 700-1400. This multifaceted presentation will include points of interest including arts (pottery, jewelry, ornaments), architecture, agriculture, urban development and much more.

Securing Funding for Long-Term Sustainability November 20, 1-2 pm | Webinar | [Learn more and sign up](#)

Finding funding is a top issue for afterschool programs everywhere — in this session they'll talk about what you need to know to secure funds and advocate for long-term program sustainability.

Check out the NAE4-HYDP website for additional virtual trainings.

