

JULY 2025

THE VOICE

Association Newsletter



Regional Award Winners announced

Each year NAE4-HYDP members have the opportunity to showcase their work through submission of Member Recognition Awards covering areas of Communication and Speciality. State selections will advance to the national round for judging. This year's regional recipients are as follows:

SPECIALITY AWARDS

EXCELLENCE IN PEER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD AMY HENSCHEN

This award recognizes NAE4-HYDP members for significant accomplishments in peer-to-peer teaching in 4-H, youth development or other professional development topics related to the youth development professional. Delivery of professional development must be by other Extension professionals to their peers. Individuals or teams may apply. Interdisciplinary teams are encouraged as well as interdisciplinary content where subject-matter content is merged with positive youth development principles. Delivery of professional development may be through face-to-face training, distance education (webinar(s), interactive online courses or other effective delivery methods. Professional development efforts may be a single training or a series of sessions.

GREG YOST MEMORIAL YOUTH IN LEADERSHIP AWARD KATIE DUITSMAN

This award recognizes the outstanding efforts of members that exemplify youth-adult partnerships which support young people in programs that affect them and their world.
(continued on page 2)

2024-2025 Board Members

OFFICERS

Martha Ebbesmeyer, *President*
Katie Duitsman, *Vice President*
Kasey Kemme, *Secretary*
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Katie Duitsman, *Membership*
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REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Kelly Lafferty & Latosha Reggans, *Northern*
Carissa Nelson, *East Central*
Jessica Jaffry, *West Central*
Kristi Stout, *Southern*



Regional Award Winners announced (continued)

EXCELLENCE IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING AWARD

SHELBY CARLSON

This award recognizes outstanding efforts by members in workforce development and career exploration programming and to strengthen the commitment to workforce development programming curriculum. The program should be part of the ongoing 4-H program in the geographical area the nominee serves (county, district, region or state).

FIRST TIME ATTENDEE

ABIGAIL NELSON

COMMUNICATOR AWARDS

To recognize NAE4-HYDP members for significant accomplishments in presenting 4-H to the general public, civic groups, 4-H groups, or individuals through public information methods.

RADIO/AUDIO PROGRAM

AMY HENSCHEN

To provide educational or promotional information that is accurate, concise and makes the listener respond in a positive manner or to attract the listener's attention, hold attention and make the listener respond in a positive way.

VIDEO PROGRAM

SHELBY CARLSON

To provide educational or promotional information that is accurate, concise, and makes the listener respond in a positive manner or to attract the listener's attention, hold attention and make the listener respond in a positive way.

NAE4-HYDP Conference - Georgia On My Mind, 4H in My Heart

Date: October 28-30, 2025 | Location: Hilton Atlanta |
Atlanta, GA

The 2025 NAE4-HYDP Conference: Georgia on My Mind; 4-H in My Heart is focused on 4-H youth development professionals working together to improve their profession and the people with whom they work.

Registration is open!

Member registration: \$600 | **One Day registration:** \$375

Want a travel buddy? Share your travel plans here:

https://illinois.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3lqpza47U2QJ8Cq

**IEPYE Professional
Development Scholarship
- Due August 1**

Applications are due no later than August 1, 2025. Submit through this online link: <https://form.jotform.com/251248600728052>



NAE4-HYDP Conference Presentations

During NAE4-HYDP's annual conference, there are several opportunities for professional development sessions, with this year having great representation of Illinois staff and IEPYE members leading sessions. Consider supporting your peers as they present on various topics. More details regarding the dates and times of each session will be shared as we know them. If you are presenting, please let us know here: https://illinois.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_80QPihZ7Owkgf6m

| Poster/Workshop | Title | Presenters |
|-----------------|--|---|
| Workshop | 4-H Membership in a post-COVID World: Proven Strategies for Recruitment and Retention | Carissa Nelson |
| Workshop | Empowering Youth as Content Creators: Using Gen Z and Gen Alpha to Tell the Beyond Ready Story | Carissa Nelson Latosha Reggans |
| Poster | No Limits Livestock Show | Samantha Gaither |
| Poster | Welcome to the Real World: A Financial Literacy Program for Teens | Kristi Stout Shelby Carlson Cindy Ogwal |
| Workshop | Protect the Plate: Empowering Youth to Understand Food Safety, Agriculture, and Sustainability | Alcha Corban Katie Buckley |
| Workshop | Passport to the World | Alcha Corban Martha Ebbesmeyer Myla Munro Amy Henschen |
| Workshop | Game On!: Leveling up 4-H with Esports | Brittney Muschetto Keith Jacobs |

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

NAE4-HYDP Conference Presentations (continued)

| Poster/Workshop | Title | Presenters |
|-----------------|--|--|
| Poster | From the Capitol to the Community: Strengthening Youth Leadership through Civic Engagement | Katie Duitsman Patty McGlaughlin |
| Workshop | Engage Where They Are: Maximizing Online Platforms to Connect with Youth | Danielle Gapinski |
| Workshop | Beyond the Page: Exploring the Benefits of Journaling | Danielle Gapinski |
| Workshop | Fair Resources: Why Recreate the Wheel. Share! | Shelby Carlson, Kasey Kemme, Jennifer Peterson, Michele Aavang, Ryan Littlejohn, Megan Pierson, Brittany Smith, April Knoblett, Kristi Smith |



IEPYE Annual Meeting

**Thursday, September 18
Champaign**

More details to come!

ESP National Conference 2026

ESP National Conference will be hosted by the Illinois Association on October 12-15, 2026 in Springfield. ESP, or Epsilon Sigma Phi, works to strengthen the impact of the Extension System's ability to address the needs of individuals and communities through research-based education. It is one of the oldest and is the largest organization of Extension Professionals.

They are seeking help in a variety of areas to make the national conference a success, including Hospitality & Registration, Tours, Entertainment, Life Member, Décor, Auction, and Technology. If you are interested in assisting, please let an IEPYE board Member know.

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