2019-2020 Board Members

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- Katie Duitsman
  Membership Recognition
- Myla Munro
  Professional Development
- Rachel Hazen
  Public Relations & Information
- Melissa Wilson
  Illinois 4-H Foundation

FROM THE BOARD

Interim Officer Update
Mynda Tracy has been named Interim Treasurer by the IEPYE Board of Officers.

Membership Update
Look for an email to sign up for the new IEPYE year coming soon. Dues are $105 for both national and state or $25 for state only.

CONTACT A BOARD MEMBER TO LEARN MORE ABOUT IEPYE

https://extension.illinois.edu/4h

SEND NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS TO SHELBY CARLSON AT SRCARLS2@ILLINOIS.EDU

YOU'RE INVITED
Join us for the Fall Meeting of IEPYE!
Wednesday, November 18, 2020
4:00-5:00 p.m.
(First Day of Annual Conference)
Via Zoom

IEPYE Dues
$105.00

IEPYE 11-11-20
11-11-20
NAME CHANGE
NAE4-HA (National Association of Extension 4-H Agents) has officially changed it’s name to NAE4-HYDP (National Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals).

GIVE 20 FOR 2020
This year, in lieu of auctions at NAE4-HYDP, your State Relations Team has chosen to battle it out! We are asking you to give $20 for 2020 to be entered into a chance to get a conference registration scholarship for attending NAE4-HYDP in 2021! And, get this! For every $20 you give, you get an extra chance at winning a conference registration scholarship! Can your region get the most given?? It also looks like if you give $40, you get a shirt with the new logo! Check out details here: https://www.nae4hydp.org/general/custom.asp?page=20for2020
A little background info: typically during the regional breakfasts, there is a silent auction and dollar auction. The money goes to help the next state in our region who hosts the conference...which is Wisconsin in 2022!

SAVE THE DATE:
When: Nov 15-18, 2021
Where: The Peabody
Memphis, TN

UPCOMING WEBINARS
https://www.nae4hydp.org/events/

Resource Review: Practices for Inclusion of All Genders and Sexual Orientations
11/18/2020 | 12p.m. Central
Professional Development Webinar Ducks, Dandelions, and Dutch Ovens: Addressing Food Insecurity
12/16/2020 | 12p.m. Central

SOCIAL MEDIA
Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/nae4ha
Idea Sharing Group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/nae4ha
Shelby Carlson will lead a training on writing biographies for our staff pages online. Many times they’re an afterthought, but a well written biography improves our personal credibility and Extension’s too!
How many times have we told someone "4-H is truly a family organization" as we recruit new members to put on their first green t-shirt or brag about the organization we work for? Becoming part of the 4-H family took on a very real meaning for Jamie Boas as she attended her daughter Aubrey’s first Cloverbud meeting as a 4-H parent and leader.

The club split up to have half of the members meet virtually while the remaining members practiced social distancing and met in-person. After they adopted a dairy calf, the club learned all about the dairy industry including tasting cheese!

Education Insight: Jamie Boas

"If you look closely at this selfie, you’ll see my six-year old daughter, Aubrey smack dab in the middle, wearing purple. This was her first official Cloverbud meeting and she was excited! As her mom and leader, I was honestly anything but excited… Is our safety plan working? Will the kids keep their masks on, is everything individually Packaged? Will the kids have fun? Covid 19 added a whole new layer to the mix.

After the meeting I asked my nephew what he thought of the meeting and he answers “It was awesome. I loved it!” I realized my worries were unfounded. Kids are adaptable and resilient. What they love is time together even if it’s masked and six feet apart.”
Educator Insight: Sara Marten

"Our Nutrition Educator and myself are teaming to offer what we’re calling a 'Cook & Connect' box for local families. Families can sign up to receive a recipe for a family-friendly meal and an activity that they can do together as a family. All supplies for the activity and non-perishable items for the meal are included.

We are in the process of getting them put together for distribution late next week – but we had 53 families respond to this program! We think we will replicate it at other times throughout the year – maybe in the spring and again in the summer."

4-H FAMILY HIGHLIGHT

Check out this story short story about a 4-H family and their experience
https://www.porkbusiness.com/article/importance-waiting-4-h-teaches-some-things-cant-be-rushed
A TIME LIKE NO OTHER: 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND COVID-19

Abstract

In this thought leader commentary, we review the potential devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on young people, including trauma, impacts on mental health, socioemotional distress, and changes in academic learning. Stating that 4-H is uniquely positioned to mitigate these effects through intentional positive youth development efforts, we present a call to action for 4-H educators and Extension administrators as we move from initial reaction to recovery and beyond. We recommend four research-based strategies to ensure that youths not only survive, but thrive, in this time like no other.

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Roger A. Rennekamp Extension Health
Director Cooperative Extension/Extension Committee on Organization and Policy
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SENSE OF BELONGING AS PERCEIVED BY YOUTHS WHO CONTINUE PARTICIPATION IN 4-H

Abstract

Sense of belonging is an essential element of a high-quality 4-H program. However, little research exists quantifying sense of belonging among 4-H club members. We measured perceived sense of belonging among Florida 4-H members in middle and high school as well as seven factors that influenced continued participation in 4-H. Parental involvement, 4-H events, and interactions with friends were factors important to participants’ continued enrollment. Interaction with a caring adult was the factor most strongly positively correlated with perceived sense of belonging, suggesting the importance to retention of providing a framework that allows a new 4-H member to develop a positive relationship with a caring adult in a safe and inclusive environment.

Chris DeCubellis, 4-H State Specialized Agent
University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida
cdecube@ufl.edu

Kirby Barrick, Professor Emeritus, Former Dean of College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida
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Congratulations to Susan Sloop for receiving the First Time. Attendee Conference Scholarship. According to the NAE4-HYD site, The NAE4-HYD First-Timer Scholarship is a tribute to those professionals that have a passion for the 4-H Youth Development Program. The purpose of the scholarship is to provide a means for members to attend the annual NAE4-HA Conference in order to foster new and continued professional growth.

Susan started with Extension in 2015 as a Family Life Educator for Unit 26 (Franklin, Perry, Jackson, Williamson, and Randolph Counties). In 2019, she made the transition to 4-H Youth Development and now serves as the 4-H Educator for Unit 20 (Clark, Crawford, and Edwards Counties). Susan’s passion for 4-H shines through in her creativity and innovation, her willingness to implement new programs, and the endless support she provides to her 4-H members, leaders and colleagues.

We wish Susan continued success

WRITTEN BY ALCHA CORBAN
Shelby Carlson was recognized by the Illinois Extension Professionals for Youth Education (IEPYE) for a Promotional Piece and a Published Photo & Press Release as part of the Communicator Awards.

The 4-H Promotional Piece was a postcard to target high school freshman to join 4-H or request information about the 4-H program. Shelby designed and printed the postcards to handout to youth attending a leadership conference sponsored by a youth group Shelby serves as a mentor for in her role as Youth Development Educator.

The criteria for the Promotional Piece was to attract the reader’s attention and make the reader respond in a positive way. As a result of this marketing and similar marketing efforts, 4-H membership in Warren and Henderson Counties increased. The Published Photo and Press Release selected was developed to capture the spirit of a livestock judging contest and the skill and focus a 4-H member must use to assess and rank a class.

Shelby created, photographed and distributed the photo and press release for the Warren County 4-H Livestock judging contest. The criteria for the Published Photo is to tell a story through a photo with composition, photographic quality and storytelling ability. The captured image highlights the intense concentration demonstrated by 4-H members who participate in 4-H livestock judging.

Shelby serves as the Extension Educator for Henderson, Knox, McDonough and Warren counties for the University of Illinois Extension. Shelby provides leadership to the 4-H Youth Development programs and youth initiatives.

Carlson graduated from Western Illinois University-Quad Cities with a bachelor’s degree in Communications and from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign with a degree in Agriculture Education. Shelby is a native of Knox County, where she was a 10 year 4-H member.

WRITTEN BY TINA VEAL
University of Illinois Extension 4-H Youth Development Educator, Martha Ebbesmeyer, was recognized as the Illinois winner for Excellence in Agriculture Literacy Programming and Excellence in Healthy Living Programming by Illinois Extension Professionals for Youth Education (IEPYE). Ebbesmeyer has served Carroll, Lee, and Whiteside counties in her role as 4-H Youth Development Educator since 2015.

275 fifth graders from Lee and Whiteside counties were able to benefit from Ebbesmeyer’s award-winning Healthy Living Program, “Health Jam”. The 4-H Health Jam program provides youth with research based information that enables them to make wise decisions that will impact their health as an adult. Twelve health topics were presented to youth including a tour of hospital departments and a “Walk Across Illinois” challenge. As a result of participating in Ebbesmeyer’s healthy living program, students reported being more aware of their activity level and their intake of fruits and vegetables.

In addition to her outstanding work in the area of Healthy Living, Ebbesmeyer was also recognized as the Illinois winner for Excellence in Agriculture Literacy Programming. In partnership with Extension Horticulture Educator, Bruce Black, Ebbesmeyer provided the 4-H Gardens program. During the summer of 2019, University of Illinois Extension 4-H Youth Summer Gardens were held at four locations across Carroll, Lee, and Whiteside counties. Over 200 elementary-aged students were reached with a new topic each week aimed at expanding their knowledge of food production. At each garden site, youth planted, nurtured, and harvested plants over a two month period. As a result, many youth developed a taste for vegetables they had never heard of. By participating in these summer gardens, participants reinforced their life skills while addressing food insecurity in their communities by growing and donating the produce to those in need.

Shelby Carlson, a Youth Development teammate of Ebbesmeyer says, “Martha is such an innovative Educator. I know I can always trust her guidance to be creative and well thought out. I’m thrilled her work was recognized with these awards.” Ebbesmeyer continues to provide exceptional programming to Carroll, Lee, and Whiteside counties as the University of Illinois Extension 4-H Youth Development Educator. For more information about programs provided by Ebbesmeyer and the 4-H Youth Development team, visit https://extension.illinois.edu/clw/4-h-youth-development.
Two University of Illinois Extension 4-H youth development educators were recognized by the National Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals for their dedicated and creative work in Illinois 4-H. Sara Marten, Hillsboro, and Sandra Prez, Grayslake, received the Achievement in Service Award during the association virtual national conference this week.

Sara Marten
Marten currently serves youth in the central Illinois counties of Christian, Jersey, Macoupin, and Montgomery. She began her Extension career with Purdue Extension in 2015, then returned home to Illinois where she had been an active 4-H member. On returning to Illinois, she served two years developing innovative programs in Franklin, Jackson, Perry, Randolph, and Williamson counties.

Marten’s excellence has long been recognized in state and national Extension efforts, and she is an early adopter of new 4-H programs in natural resources, STEM, and health program areas.

She implemented the 4-H Pollinator Habitat and the 4-H Honeybee Challenge programs, both through National 4-H Council, where she recruited teen teachers and volunteers to help teach youth the importance of providing safe habitats for pollinators. She helped youth develop more than 5,000 square feet of native pollinator plants and grasses at the Bremer Wildlife Sanctuary.

When the 2017 solar eclipse crossed Southern Illinois, Marten worked with area schools and libraries to provide summer day camp lessons on solar science. She brought the nationally-acclaimed 4-H Health Jam program to Southern Illinois. The program encourages healthy choices and the study of health careers by involving local health professional in a 9-week intensive program.

Marten also introduced area school districts to the Welcome to the Real World program where middle and high school youth investigate careers, then participate in a simulation of paying bills, buying cars, finding housing, and purchasing groceries as an introduction of the decisions they’ll need to make as adults.

Marten is sought by her peers for her mentoring and creative approach to youth development. She has presented at two national conventions. In addition to the ASA, Marten was honored by the Illinois Extension Professionals for Youth Education association for work in STEM and camping.

Continued on next page
Sandra Prez
Prez has brought hundreds of new youth in the urban regions of northeast Illinois to 4-H. As a bilingual Spanish speaker, she is breaking through the language barrier to open new opportunities to youth and their families.

Prez serves youth in Lake and McHenry counties. She initiated the national 4-H Tech Wizards program in Round Lake. The program offers after school mentoring to middle school youth. Using science, technology, engineering, and math as the program content, Prez creates a welcoming environment where students want to learn. Adults provide mentoring, while teens, trained by Prez, provide the technology lessons. Prez was the first to include teens in the delivery in Illinois.

In 2016, Prez initiated a bilingual Parenting Success program which introduced 4-H to new audiences in Waukegan. She presented both Spanish and English portions of the lessons concurrently so that both sets of learners were receiving the information at the same time. The program has expanded to eight schools in the city.

Prez was also the early adopter of Juntos, a college readiness program which helps youth and families receive career and academic counseling. The program includes summer college visits and meets as 4-H clubs.

Prez is one of 16 Illinois Extension staff trained as a facilitator for Navigating Difference, a cultural competency program, which reaches over 600 Illinois Extension staff members. Prez trained her national peers on her Latino outreach efforts at the 2017 National 4-H Conference. She was honored as a member of the state’s interdisciplinary team and for her work in the STEM area.

WRITTEN BY JUDY MAE BINGMAN

GO, SANDRA AND SARA!
STOUT NAMED STATE AWARD WINNER FOR PROGRAM EXCELLENCY

University of Illinois Extension 4-H Youth Development Educator, Kristi Stout, was recognized as the Illinois winner for Excellence in Teen Programming by Illinois Extension Professionals for Youth Education (IEPYE). Stout has served Alexander, Johnson, Massac, Pulaski, and Union Counties in the Youth Development capacity since 2014.

103 teens have enrolled and trained as a teen leader in Stout’s counties from 2014-2019. These 4-H teen leaders receive 30 hours of training each consecutive year, with trainings ranging from iMovie, photography, team building, ages and stages, experiential learning, nutrition, healthy living and more. Stout’s 4-H teen leader program has successfully created teen mentors, teachers, leaders, ambassadors, and advocates for 4-H within her five-county unit.

Stout was strategic in building this teen leadership program by critiquing trainings and enhancing them to help better incorporate a sense of belonging to the 4-H organization. Her program now includes teen project choices, mimicking the traditional 4-H club experience, and teens have helped the unit build capacity and publicity, while enjoying the program as a club member, too. Stout’s 4-H Teen Leader program has impacted the ability to expand the outreach of their 4-H program in the unit, specifically with day camps and 4-H Tech Wizards after school programs. In 2019, Stout continued to build the 4-H Teen Leader program and develop more leadership and public speaking opportunities to keep all her teens engaged. The teens continue to amaze Stout with their dedication and determination to the program. With a total of 103 teens in 2019, Stout started working to create capacity outside of the 4-H program and help her teens connect to other program areas such as: Family Consumer Sciences, Community Economic Development, and Ag and Natural Resources.

Stout’s Teen Leadership program has several noteworthy accomplishments, but one she is most proud of is the fact that 69% of the teens she surveyed feel that they are connected to an adult other than their parents, proving that youth-adult partnerships are important. Keeping the teens involved and connected to 4-H was a goal of Stout’s and according to the 4-H Teen Teacher Survey results beginning in 2017 are documented, the involvement range was significant. 81% of teens were involved in other 4-H clubs. 80% were involved in 4-H workshop/day camps. 50% were involved in local 4-H fairs, and 51% were involved in a community service project. Moreover, the 4-H Teen Leader program in Alexander, Johnson, Massac, Pulaski, and Union Counties is high quality, impactful, sustainable and has survey data to support the outcomes.

YEAH, KRISTI!

WRITTEN BY RACHEL HAZEN
University of Illinois Extension 4-H Youth Development Educator, Sara Marten, and 4-H State Specialist, Curt Sinclair, were recognized as the Illinois winners for Excellence in Natural Resources/Environmental Education by Illinois Extension Professionals for Youth Education (IEPYE). Marten has served University of Illinois Extension in the Youth Development capacity since 2016 and Sinclair has served in the State Specialist capacity since 1993.

1,569 youth from Montgomery County and throughout the state at the 4-H Memorial Camp were able to benefit from Marten and Sinclair’s 4-H Pollinator Habitat programs. These 4-H Pollinator Habitat programs provided youth with specific curriculum on pollinator habitats with a focus on habitat planting. Most of the youth took part in the research-based “4-H Honeybee Challenge” where youth make ‘bees’ using toothbrush heads and vibrating cell phone motors to ‘pollinate’ fields of vegetables as a team. As a result of participating in Marten and Sinclair’s natural resources/environmental program students reported an understanding of why protecting and increasing pollinator habitats is important to our food supply.

Marten and Sinclair were strategic in finding partnerships to help with their initiative. Ten 4-H Teen Teachers were utilized in delivering many of the direct educational programs in Montgomery County. Also, the partnership with Illinois Audubon Society’s local chapter and sanctuary—Bremer Sanctuary—served as a great partner for a pollinator planting event. In addition, many youth were reached at 4-H Memorial Camp while the camp site served as a great partner site for a planting event that allowed youth to get their hands dirty with Olympic medalist and 4-H advocate, Jackie Joyner-Kersee.

There were several noteworthy responses from volunteers, teen teachers, and other participants about Marten and Sinclair’s program impact. One volunteer mentioned, “Seeing these kids with their hands in the dirt, who have never planted anything in their lives, kneeling down with their trowels next to Jackie Joyner-Kersee...who’d have thought I would ever see such a thing.” While a teen teacher mentioned, “I’ve really gotten into researching more about pollinators... through [my participation in] this program.” Ultimately, a classroom teacher put it best, “GREAT program! My students talked about it the rest of the day.”.

MARTEN AND SINCLAIR NAMED STATE AWARD WINNER FOR PROGRAM EXCELLENCY

CURT AND SARA, YOU ROCK!
MEET THE BOARD

Jamie Boas, President
Favorite 4-H Project: Cooking
Go-to When Stressed: Organizing and Cleaning

Alcha Corban, Vice President
Favorite 4-H Project: Food and Nutrition
Go-to When Stressed: Spending time with family, getting outside, going for a walk, or working in the garden

Sara Marten, Secretary
Favorite 4-H Project: Vet Science
Go-to When Stressed: Listen to Christmas music—yes, even in the middle of summer!

Emily Schoenfelder, West Central Regional Director
Favorite 4-H Project: Camp
Go-to When Stressed: Cooking, and then eating what I cooked

Katie Duitsman, Member Recognition Chair
Favorite 4-H Project: Camp
Go-to When Stressed: Cooking, and then eating what I cooked

Myla Munro, Professional Development Chair
Favorite 4-H Project: Horses
Go-to When Stressed: Bake tasty treats, then try to give them away so I don’t eat them!

Shelby Carlson, Newsletter Chair
Favorite 4-H Project: Goats and Pigs
Go-to When Stressed: Going for a walk or reading and writing
Greetings from always sunny Scottsdale, Arizona!!

I started working for the University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service (Yes, the organization’s title was that long) as an Assistant Youth Adviser in January of 1982 in DuPage County. The county did not have a full time Agriculture Adviser, so my position was 75% youth and 25% adult agriculture. At the time, Extension had Assistant Agriculture and Assistant Home Economics Advisors doing youth work but not the other way around.

In 1987, I became the Youth Adviser for Kendall County. Working with the school in Yorkville we developed a very comprehensive drug awareness program. Part of the program was working with a large group of high school youth to put on drug free skits for younger youth. They performed at many grade schools in Kendall County and were asked to perform at several state and national educational events.

In 1992 the University of Illinois Extension reinvented itself and we all had to apply for new jobs. I became a Prevention Education Educator. Over the years I have had great opportunities to collaborate with many individuals both in and out of Extension. In Kankakee County, we developed a strong coalition of Extension staff and local resources to provide youth programming.

I had the pleasure of serving on the NAE4-HA Board as chair of the program committee. On the state level, I was President of IEPYE and served as chair of the Youth Development Team.

Since retirement in 2010, I have kept myself busy by substitute teaching for 5 years and managing my family’s investments of farmland in Illinois, vacation rental houses in the Florida panhandle, and building houses in Arizona. At the end of 2018, Lisa and I moved out to Arizona. That was always the plan after retirement it just took us a few years to move. (We were enjoying the opportunity to travel!!) It is wonderful being close to our two adult children that live only 45 minutes away.

Life is good!!

WRITTEN BY DAVID MCMURTY