

2023 National Conference

# AWARDS PROGRAM

**Oct. 12, 2023**

WYNDHAM GRAND PITTSBURGH DOWNTOWN

**Pittsburgh, PA**

Building Foundations



Stronger than Steel

[NAE4HYDP.org](http://NAE4HYDP.org)



**MAKE IT EASY ON YOURSELF.  
TRUST AIL SPECIAL RISK.**



**AMERICAN INCOME LIFE**  
insurance company

**SPECIAL RISK**  
DIVISION

**PROUD SUPPORTERS OF**

NAE4-HYDP and providers of Annual and Special Activities  
Policies for 4-H and Extension. Serving Those Who Serve  
Others is our motto!

Contact AIL Special Risk Division:

**Erin Bain, Director**  
**efbain@aillife.com**

**-or- 800.849.4820**

[www.aillspecialrisk.com](http://www.aillspecialrisk.com)

# A message from the PRESIDENT



**Congratulations** on being selected as a National Award Recipient for the National Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals (NAE4-HYDP).

It is exciting to recognize our fellow association members for the great work that has been accomplished. As 4-H Youth Development Professionals, you exemplify “Make the Best Better” in your efforts to make a difference. The opportunity to be recognized and celebrated by 4-H Youth Development peers from across the country is truly an honor.

Our NAE4-HYDP award recipients are recognized for their creative programs, innovative curricula, media, and service throughout their daily efforts. These accomplishments are inspiring as they challenge us to try new things and work in new ways with our youth and volunteers to serve in the 4-H youth development program.

We are all proud of our fellow award winners and will continue to be inspired by them. Congratulations to all the NAE4-HYDP 2022-2023 award recipients.

*Craig Presar*  
2022 -2023 President



# Table of CONTENTS

The President's Message .....	3
Specialty Awards.....	5
Communicator Awards.....	7
Achievement in Service Awards .....	8
Distinguished Service Awards .....	15
Meritorious Service Awards .....	21
National 4-H Hall of Fame Laureates .....	23
25 Years of Service Awards .....	24
Sponsors .....	26



# SPECIALTY Awards

## Beyond Youth Leadership Award

*Southern*

Bethany Corona

## Denise Miller National 4-H Innovator Award

*Western*

Michael Wallace  
Kelly Anne Stewart  
Gary Varrella  
Pamela Watson  
Ashley Hernandez-Hall  
Brian Brandt

## Diversity & Inclusion: Expanding the 4-H Audience Award

*Western*

Jeremy Elliott-Engel  
Susan Sekaquaptewa  
Juan Arias  
Alexandra Carlise  
Debbie Pettigrew  
Kristy Kinlicheeme

## Educational Technology Award

*Northeast*

Morgan Cady  
Paula Lucas  
Martha Gregory  
Dwayne Hay  
Michael Martin  
Phil Hoy  
Kathleen Weller  
Amy Hoffman  
Deb Kasanicky  
Jennifer Koller

## Excellence in 4-H Club Support Award

*North Central*

Carlea Liermann  
Emma Wagner  
Jessica Jansen

## Excellence in 4-H Volunteerism Award

*Northeast*

Jamie Mullins  
Kim Suder  
Megan Midcap  
Megan Kruger  
Tina Cowger  
West Virginia Extension 4-H Unit  
Jenny Murray  
Evy Wright

## Excellence in After School Programming Award

*North Central*

Megan Freel  
Marc Vinsand  
Virginia Atwell

## Excellence in Ag Literacy Programming Award

*North Central*

Crystal Reith  
Amy Wadding  
Brandi Schaap  
Kelsey Maeschen  
Nancy Hegland  
Leah Buelter

## Excellence in Animal Science Programming Award

*Northeast*

Laura Eppinger  
Amelia Valente

## Excellence in Camping Award

*Southern*

Morgan Beaty

## Excellence in Communication and Expressive Arts Award

*North Central*

Penny Tank  
Alicia Schroeder-Haag  
Carlea Liermann  
Dana Berger

## Excellence in Geospatial Programs Award

*Southern*

Kasey Bozeman  
Katie Bowker  
Wes Porter  
Cheryl Poppell  
Jason Edenfield

## Excellence in Global Citizenship Programming Award

*Northeast*

Alayne Torretta  
Matthew Newman  
Michelle Teitsma  
Lynn Wacławski  
Alexandra Moiseev  
Anyia Ishanina

## Excellence in Healthy Living Programming Award

*Southern*

Brigitte Passman

## Excellence in Natural Resources / Environmental Education Award

*Western*

Linda Mclean  
Kathy Moses  
Jesse Utt-Clark  
Brandt Harvey  
Lonnie Cawston  
Ossian Laspaa

## Excellence in Peer Professional Development Award

*Western*

Stacy Buchholz  
Vernon Parent  
Gemma Miner  
Aimee Kanode  
Sarah Chvilicek  
Mike Hauser  
Kelton Jensen  
Nikola Ennis  
Eva Madrid



# SPECIALTY Awards

## Excellence in Shooting Sports Programming Award

*North Central*

Chandra Plate  
Tammy Stuhr

## Citizenship in 4-H Youth Development Award

*North Central*

Sthele Greybar  
Kelsey Guadarrama  
Lesley Lodmell  
Dr. Steve McKinley  
Rebecca Wilkins  
Deb Burrow  
Penny Conover  
Dr. Casey Mull  
Molly Hunt

## 4-H Military Partnership Excellence in Programming Award

*Southern*

Laura Goss  
Abbie Salmon  
Allie Griner  
Kasey Bozeman  
Grace Chauncey  
Paula Fender  
Jenna Daniel  
Brianna Ketcham  
Kristen Ford  
Sue Chapman  
Briana Ketcham

## Excellence in Teamwork Award

*Northeast*

Cathy Bartlett Gray  
Alex Armstrong  
Christina DiCenzo  
Elias Freire  
Melanie Forstrom  
Sheila Norman  
Tara Marble  
Vicki Fleming  
Emily Mott  
Marc Coumoyer

## Life Member Award

*Northeast*

Barbara Baker

## Greg Yost Memorial Youth in Leadership Award

*North Central*

Sara Koepke

## Search For Excellence in Teen Programming Award

*Northeast*

Lisa Rothenburger  
Kristine Rappaport  
Cory Matthew  
Maggie Navatto  
Maria Strada

## Excellence in Urban 4-H Programming Award

*Western*

Claudia Meeks  
Shaylen Florez  
Ethan Cahill  
Jean Walton  
Meredith Laurel

## Susan Barkman Award for Research and Evaluation

*North Central*

Theresa Ferrari  
Beth Giffin

## Jim Kahler Excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics Award

*Southern*

Noelle Guay  
Maviette Hernandez Lorenzo  
Barbara Hernandez De la Cruz  
Carmon Bostrom  
Cyndi Longley  
Vanessa Spero

## Excellence in Workforce Development Programming Award

*Northeast*

Lisa Ingram  
Jodi Smith  
Jamie Mullins  
Sabrina Beal  
Barbara Little  
Susan Gamble  
Alyssa Carozza  
Megan Kruger

## 4-H Military Partnership Innovating for Success Award

*North Central*

Veronica Bolhuis  
Angela Cook  
Katelyn Golembiewski  
Kathy Jamieson  
Katelyn King  
Lori Warchuck  
Talynn Johnson

*Specialty Awards  
Sponsored By*



2150 VF Street • Lincoln, NE • 402-476-3810 • [Rixstine.com](http://Rixstine.com)

# COMMUNICATOR

## Awards

### Educational Package - Individual

*Southern*

Kasey Bozeman

### Educational Package - Team

*Northeast*

Brooke Alt  
Margaret Miltenberger  
Alex Coffman  
Elizabeth Metheny  
Kelly Hicks  
Amanda Johnson  
Michael Withrow  
Jessica Streets  
Cindy Smalley

### Educational Piece - Individual

*Southern*

Cathy Weaver

### Educational Piece - Team

*Southern*

Lauren Dye  
Courtney Brown  
Diane Bales

### Exhibit

*North Central*

Tina Veal

### Feature Story

*Western*

Sara Fleenor

### Media Presentation

*Southern*

Kasey Bozeman

### News Story

*North Central*

Debbie Harris

### Periodical Publication - Individual

*North Central*

Tina Veal

### Periodical Publication - Team

*Southern*

Courtney Mercer  
Mike Hiller  
Tonya Miller

### Personal Column

*North Central*

Mariann Wright

### Promotional Package - Individual

*Western*

Brett Schomer

### Promotional Package - Team

*Northeast*

Sara Jablonski  
June Mead  
Sherman Webb-Middlebrooks  
Jenn Bassman  
Jamila Walida Simon  
Malinda Ware  
Michele Luc  
Melanie Forstrom

### Promotional Piece - Individual

*Western*

Deborah Lester

### Promotional Piece - Team

*Western*

Claire Sponseller  
Nancy Shelstad

### Published Photo

*Southern*

Bethany Corona

### Radio/Audio Program

*North Central*

Bruce Zimmer

### Social Media Package/ Campaign - Individual

*North Central*

Mariann Wright

### Social Media Package/ Campaign - Team

*Northeast*

Jennifer Lobley  
Allison Smith

### Social Media Piece - Individual

*Southern*

Sharee Rushing

### Social Media Piece - Team

*Western*

Meriella Stamm  
Diana Solenberg  
Jenia Hooper  
Kellen Henniger  
Josey Pukrop

### Video Program

*Southern*

Allie Prevatt

Communicator  
Awards  
Sponsored By

THE  
**7**air  
PUBLISHING HOUSE

# ACHIEVEMENT IN SERVICE

## Awards

*The ASA Awards are for any current member of NAE4-HYDP who has paid dues (for at least the immediate two consecutive years prior to the current) and has served more than three years but less than seven years in Extension 4-H youth programs.*

### North Central

#### **Breana Keser**

*North Dakota*

Breana Keser has been with North Dakota State University Extension-Dickey County since 2014. She is passionate about the youth in the 4-H Animal Science program, especially in the horse program. She is a co-superintendent with the ND State Fair 4-H Horse Show and collaboratively works to support 4-H volunteers.

#### **Lindsey Leker**

*North Dakota*

Lindsey Leker, Youth Development Specialist, has strong 4-H robotics and coding programs. Lindsey has a passion to reach underserved and under-resourced youth with programming and excels in securing grant funding. She serves on the National STEM 4-H Committee and has a lead role in ND 4-H Camp programming.

#### **Randi Schwartz**

*Minnesota*

Randi Schwartz started her career as an intern, then an interim 4-H staff, worked in a county position and now has advanced to a state position. She was vital in the creation of the Minnesota 4-H Pollinator Ambassador Program and now supports state and national programs available to 4-H members.

#### **Nicole Kudrle**

*Minnesota*

Nicole Kudrle has been an Extension Educator with 4-H Youth Development at the University of Minnesota Extension for six and a half years. Nicole's work has been focused on creating opportunities that ensure youth voice is included through a variety of program opportunities in north St. Louis county.

#### **Megan Slater**

*Minnesota*

Megan Slater is an innovative staff member from Minnesota. She is passionate about peer relationships and gives leadership to a large Youth Teaching Youth program in Washington County. She empowers youth members to partner with local elementary schools to deliver educational lessons and give first generation youth a 4-H experience.

#### **Carlea Liermann**

*Wisconsin*

Carlea Liermann is the Calumet County 4-H Program Educator since 2019. Carlea serves on several local and state committees that help bring programming opportunities to Calumet County members, along with expanding access to the program. Her biggest efforts have been expanding access and providing hands-on project learning opportunities.

#### **Alicia Schroeder-Haag**

*Wisconsin*

Alicia Schroeder-Haag started as a UW-Madison, Division of Extension County 4-H Educator in 2018. She is passionate about positive youth development, the benefits of camp, sparks, and the supporting work that she does with the 4-H Thriving Model Survey. Alicia is always looking for ways to, "Make the Best Better."

#### **Emery Bork**

*Wisconsin*

Emery Bork is the 4-H Educator for Vernon County, WI. She has been with the University of Wisconsin in various capacities for the last 11 years serving in International Education and now in the UW-Extension as part of the Positive Youth Development Institute. Emery enjoys creating programming and writing curriculum.

#### **Caroline Hansen**

*South Dakota*

Caroline Hansen is a 4-H Youth Program Advisor in South Dakota. Prior to joining 4-H staff in 2019, she was a 4-H member for 11 years and a volunteer for 9. Career highlights include receiving the 2021 NAE4-HYPD Outstanding Achievement in Citizenship Award and presenting at the 2022 NAE4-HYPD Conference.

#### **Danielle Combs**

*Ohio*

Danielle began with OSU Extension in 2016 and currently serves as a 4-H educator in Highland County. She focuses traditional and school programming while providing positive youth development. She works with Ohio 4-H STEM Design Team providing STEM resources and programs at county and regional.

#### **Elizabeth Share**

*Ohio*

Lizz serves as the Ohio 4-H Livestock/Food Animal Specialist and oversees Ohio's Youth Quality Assurance program. She gives credit for its success to 4-H Professional's dedication, reaching over 45,000 youth annually. Her favorite part of her job is working alongside educators to "make the best better" for youth and livestock!

#### **Sonya Murphy**

*Kansas*

I graduated from Pittsburg State University with a degree in Psychology and my master's in Industrial/Organizational Psychology. I worked in HR before coming to extension. After being involved with Leavenworth County 4-H as a child, I am excited to be a part of extension in Leavenworth County as a professional.



# ACHIEVEMENT IN SERVICE

## Awards

### **Elizabeth Smith**

*Ohio*

In 2017, I became the 4-H Educator in Mahoning County, Ohio. My background includes a bachelor's and master's degree in education, teaching youth, and business management. During my tenure as the 4-H Educator, I have focused on three programmatic themes which are Volunteer Development, Teen Leadership, and Youth Development.

### **Sarah Longo**

*Ohio*

Sarah serves as a program coordinator at the state 4-H office in Ohio. She works to reach teen audiences, develop camping resources, and improve overall organization systems. Sarah believes the most important part of her job is to equip others for success and thrives on finding ways to do so.

### **Jayd Roberts**

*Nebraska*

Jayd Roberts, 4-H Extension Assistant in Madison County has been with Nebraska Extension for 5 years delivering School Enrichment and summer programming, including workshops and the 4-H STEM Reading Connections program. She enjoys creating an inclusive, fun, and safe environment for all participating in 4-H and "Making the Best Better".

### **Michelle Garwood**

*Nebraska*

Michelle Garwood attended University of Nebraska-Lincoln where she received her Family & Consumer Sciences & Health Education, B.S. and M.S. in Youth Development. She has served as an Extension Educator in Cherry County and the Central Sandhills for almost 5 years focusing on Leadership, Outdoor Education, and Healthy Living programming.

### **Kelly Stelter**

*Michigan*

Through her work, Kelly exemplifies a devotion to life-long learning and a passion for coordinating opportunities for youth throughout Berrien County 4-H. Kelly has been instrumental in developing partnerships as well as coordinating dynamic, innovative programs to engage youth in learning life skills and finding their passions!

### **Emily Damro**

*Iowa*

Emily Damro is a 4-H Youth Program Specialist serving the Iowa 4-H program. Emily empowers her 4-H colleagues to meet the needs of their community through 4-H programming, contributes to efforts to develop statewide program opportunities, and serves as the current chair-elect for Iowa's section of NAE4-HYDP.

### **Teresa Bohlmann**

*Iowa*

Teresa has cultivated partnerships with each of the school districts in Cedar County. She leads in-school programs reaching every elementary and many middle/high schools in the county by delivering monthly STEM and agriculture lessons. Teresa has also coordinated summer day camps, workshops, clinics, and overnight 4-H camp.

### **Clark Colby**

*Iowa*

Clark Colby is the Arts, Communication and Design Program Specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach 4-H Youth Development Program and Assistant Teaching Professor in the College of Design and Department of Art and Visual Culture. He developed the current Iowa 4-H Camera Corps program.

### **Chelsea Corkins**

*Missouri*

As a 4-H Youth Development Professional, Chelsea Corkins has utilized her innovative thinking and unique perspective to help improve youth programming and increased 4-H participation within her counties since she started in 2019. She has earned several state and national awards and has presented at multiple national conferences.

### **Dena Held**

*North Dakota*

Dena is the Martin County Educator & CED. Dena enjoys visioning and doing things outside of the typical. Some favorites: 2019 Global Gateway Team, Clover Call Podcasts, Food Drives, & serving as a liaison with NSA Crane. She loves her family of 5, Disney and her poodle, Whirly Gig.

### **Christie Jacob**

*Indiana*

This will be my 6th year as a 4-H Educator. Some of the programs I enjoy the most are animal science, preparing youth for life after high school, and civic engagement activities. I love attending national conference each year for exciting new ideas. I'm looking forward to Pennsylvania in 2023!

### **Jennifer Abrell**

*Indiana*

Jennifer Abrell celebrated four years with Purdue Extension Owen County. She has worked her entire 30+ year career with youth and has found a home with 4-H. She is passionate about the arts, starting a 4-H theatre program called Leading Roles that has introduced a whole new audience to 4-H.

# ACHIEVEMENT IN SERVICE

## Awards

### Northeast

#### **William Davenport** *Connecticut*

William Davenport was a former Litchfield County 4-H member and club leader, and served as an agriscience teacher and Agriscience Program Director at a local high school for 33 years. He retired in 2019 to fulfill his original career plan of being the Litchfield County 4-H Educator.

#### **Molly McFaun** *Vermont*

Molly McFaun serves as the 4-H Educator for Orange and Washington Counties. Molly has also been serving as the interim 4-H Educator for Windham and Windsor Counties. Molly supports club programming in the horse and dairy projects, and also leads a career exploration program called "How Did You Get There?".

#### **Barbra Little** *West Virginia*

Barbie Little is the Raleigh County 4-H Youth Development Agent. She has served her county, and the University, since 2019. She is an advisor for the WV 4-H Teen Council and the WVU Tech Collegiate 4-H club. She serves as director of the West Virginia State 4-H Camp Alpha II.

#### **Michael Withrow** *West Virginia*

Michael Withrow is the 4-H Agent and CPC in Berkeley County WV. His programming spans local, state, and national platforms. His primary areas of expertise includes school enrichment, shooting sports, STEM education and teen leadership development. He promotes youth voice and pushes participants to take active roles on all levels.

#### **Karen Deighan** *New Hampshire*

Karen Deighan is a 4-H County, Youth Development Professional in New Hampshire. She is the president of the NHA4-HYDP and enjoys planning professional development opportunities for volunteers and colleagues. She has served as a 4-H Thrive Champion, for the Regional 4-H PYD Champion Network, for the past two years.

#### **Amelia Valente** *New Jersey*

Amelia Valente has served as the Ocean County 4-H Program Associate since February 2020 and provides organizational structure and support to the county 4-H program. She works with community partners to offer 4-H outreach and is most proud of her 4-H Cloverbud Day programming and the Rutgers Junior Breeder Symposium.

#### **Erin Greenleaf** *Pennsylvania*

Erin is the Eastern Region Animal Welfare & Biosecurity Educator in Pennsylvania. She is responsible for providing programming to 32 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties and also provides programming for Animal Science members all across the state. She currently serves as the co-chair of the Animal Science Working Group.

#### **Sandra Graham** *Pennsylvania*

Sandi is a Penn State Extension 4-H Educator. She earned a Bachelor of Science degrees in Home Economics Education and Nutrition followed by a Master's degree in Sports Nutrition. Before coming to 4-H, she spent 24 years teaching family and consumer sciences at the middle, high school and college level.

#### **Cathy Bartlett Gray** *Maine*

Cathy has been helping youth find their spark since she becoming a 4-H parent volunteer before joining the 4-H staff. Her passion for leadership, teamwork, and communication science has directed her 4-H career inspiring her to become a state-wide team and committees member, as well as in her local community.

#### **Albert Lewis** *Maryland*

Albert serves as educator in Baltimore City. He has been a member of the MAE4HYDP since 2018 and serves on the executive board. His programming focuses on STEAM, service and leadership. He has formerly won NAE4HYDP's Diversity and Inclusion: Expanding the 4-H Audience and the Excellence in Urban Programming Awards.

#### **Abigail J. Luzier** *New York*

Abby has been with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cattaraugus County for seven years. In that time, she has brought stability and growth to the program as a whole, while further developing her professional mindset. She is excited to see where the program is headed in the next seven years.

#### **Stephanie Luders** *New York*

Stephanie Luders serves as an agricultural educator for the Wyoming County 4-H program. Her main program areas are: dairy, goats, and natural resources. In addition to these areas, she also provides local outreach programming through agriculture in the classroom in three school districts.

#### **Kristin Ruggiero** *New York*

Kristin has been a solo 4-H Educator in Rockland County since November 2017. She served as Chair and Vice Chair of the South East District, and is active on committees. Kristin oversees all local 4-H programs including special-interest clubs, community clubs, in-school and after-school programs, and special events.

#### **Gretchen Sumbrum** *Maryland*

Gretchen Sumbrum is a 4-H Educator with the University of Maryland Extension. She is co-chair of the Building Communities & Civic Engagement Team and planning committee for the inaugural event, Maryland 4-H ACTS. For the state, she is a PYD Thrive Champion and an Advisor for 4-H State Council.

# ACHIEVEMENT IN SERVICE

## Awards

### **Jennifer DePasquale** *District of Columbia*

Jennifer is the Director of Resource Development Operations at National 4-H Council where she maximizes donor funds deployment across the organization. She previously served as Council's account manager for partnerships such as Microsoft, Google and HughesNet.

## Southern

### **Shani Hay** *Mississippi*

Shani Hay is an Extension Agent II with Mississippi State University Extension in the Newton County Office. Shani has a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science. Before working in Extension Shani worked in both Ag Education and the equine and beef industry for almost 30 years.

### **Laura Reed** *Mississippi*

Starting during the midst of a pandemic didn't stop Laura from jumping headfirst into her first 3 years as an Extension Agent in Lee County, Mississippi. She has started numerous new clubs, offered grab & go kits, and more in order to enrich the lives of youth in her community.

### **Lindsey Pansano** *Mississippi*

Lindsey Pansano is an Extension Agent with Mississippi State University Extension in Lamar County. Lindsey is currently serving as the MAE4-HA Treasurer, Finance Committee Chair, and the News and Views Committee Chair. Lindsey promotes 4-H programming including Equine, Livestock, Poultry, Shooting Sports, Outdoor Skills, Kayaking, and STEAM throughout Lamar County.

### **Meghan Barkley** *South Carolina*

Meghan has been serving as the Beaufort 4-H Agent since Summer of 2018. Meghan offers every pillar of 4-H in her county. Her favorite programs are Beaufort Jr Leadership, Jr Master Gardener & livestock judging. Meghan loves the variety that 4-H offers & the youth sparks that come with learning.

### **Abigail Phillips** *South Carolina*

Abigail Phillips has worked in youth development for over 15 years with experience as a teacher, camp counselor, afterschool program coordinator, and currently serves as the 4-H Agent. She serves on South Carolina 4-H Science Committee and recently completed a Master of Science in Youth Development Leadership from Clemson.

### **Todd Branson** *Oklahoma*

Todd is Purdue University Animal Scientist graduate with wide-ranging Extension background, first as an Indiana 4-H'er and volunteer, then a Texas 4-H parent, an Oklahoma 4-H Volunteer, and now an Oklahoma Extension Educator motivated to lead personal growth and self-esteem in today's youth through innovation, strategic marketing, and compelling design.

### **Melinda McNeil** *Oklahoma*

Melinda McNeil, or Mindy, lives in Oklahoma City and serves as a volunteer at her church. She earned a B.S. and a M.Ag. from OSU. Mindy taught science before starting her Extension career. Mindy specializes in youth leadership and her focus is building up confident and healthy 4-H'ers.

### **Cari Snider** *Texas*

Cari Snider received her Bachelor & Master degrees from Texas A&M University. Prior to moving to Amarillo, she was the program director at the Texas 4-H Center. She loves being a 4-H agent and encouraging the youth to try new things and get out of their comfort zone!

### **Sami Hatley** *Texas*

Sami Hatley is the ANR agent in Armstrong County and prior to that she was in Crane County. Sami graduated from Texas Tech with a bachelors degree and a masters degree from Sul Ross State. Her favorite part of being an agent is being able to educate kids about agriculture.

### **Chloe Wilson** *Alabama*

Chloe Wilson has been the 4-H Regional Agent in Limestone County since 2016. Her passions include helping youth become better leaders in their community, teaching financial literacy and life skills programming, and animal science projects. Chloe loves working with youth and helping them find their sense of belonging through 4-H.

### **Madison Tew** *Alabama*

Madison Tew is the 4-H Foundation Regional Extension Agent in Coffee and Geneva County, Alabama. Her favorite programs are STEM and leadership; however, her true passion is large animal livestock. In her spare time, Madison enjoys being outdoors, crafting, and spending time with family and friends.

### **Courtney Mercer** *Texas*

Courtney Mercer is the Family and Community Health Extension Agent for Jackson County. Courtney is a 4-H Alumni from Jackson County, who was a District 11 4-H Officer and a member of the State 4-H Council. She has been the agent in Jackson County for 6 years.

### **Christine L. Lansford** *Texas*

Christy Lansford is a lifelong youth development professional. From New Mexico Cooperative Extension to the American Quarter Horse Youth Association, she has always been drawn to mentoring and developing leadership skills in youth. Lansford feels blessed to call to be able to raise her children in this lifestyle.

### **Bridgitte Groome** *Virginia*

Bridgitte currently serves as the 4-H Program Assistant in Louisa County, Virginia. She began her extension career in May 2019. She is an alumna of the Louisa 4-H program. Her favorite program area to focus on is healthy living. Outside of work she likes to go hiking with her dog.



# ACHIEVEMENT IN SERVICE

## Awards

### **Josie Davis**

*Georgia*

Josie Davis has been the Paulding County 4-H Agent since 2018. She successfully coordinates a county program of approximately 2,600 4-H'ers and 112 school club meetings a month. She began her Extension career as the Environmental Education Assistant Program Coordinator at Rock Eagle in 2015.

### **Katrina Searcy**

*Georgia*

Katrina joined UGA Extension in 2018 as the Cook County 4-H Agent. She earned a Master of Science degree in Plant Pathology at the University of Georgia and is pursuing a Ph.D. She is married to Jonathon and they now share a son whom they legally adopted named Daniel.

### **Paula Daniels**

*Florida*

Paula has been the 4-H Agent in Okeechobee County since July 2018. She received her bachelor's and master's degree in Elementary Education at the University of Florida with a focus on Exceptional Student Education coursework. She has developed and focused programming in Okeechobee County leadership, life skills and STEM.

### **Noelle Guay**

*Florida*

Noelle is a 4-H agent in Palm Beach County. Her 4-H program focuses on STEM, leadership development, and healthy living as well as building inclusion, diversity, equity, and access within 4-H. Noelle has a Master's in Biological Science from FAU and is a Curriculum and Instruction Ph.D. student at FAU.

### **Shreemoyee Ghosh**

*North Dakota*

With five years of experience and working with one of the largest volunteer programs and the second-largest community club program, Shreemoyee engaged 582 adult volunteers and 8,673 youth between September 2017 and August 2022. She has presented her works at state, national and international conferences, and enjoys traveling and food.

### **April Edwards**

*Georgia*

April Edwards began her extension career in 2017. In 2020, April accepted the position of 4-H Agent in Jackson County and has continued to use multi-disciplinary programming to reach youth. She specializes in the areas of youth development, health & nutrition, workforce development, and agricultural awareness.

### **Lauryn Gilmer**

*Georgia*

Lauryn Gilmer currently serves as the McIntosh County Extension Coordinator and 4-H Youth Development Agent. Lauryn earned her bachelor's degree in environmental science from Berry College and her master's degree in Ag & Environmental Education from UGA. Lauryn is currently pursuing her Ph.D. with UGA in Leadership, Education, and Communication.

### **Carter Humphries**

*Virginia*

Carter is a 4-H Agent in Henrico County and has served in this role for 4 years. Her work is focused primarily on school enrichment programs, with over 6,000 youth enrolled last year in a variety of projects including agriculture in the classroom, embryology, career readiness, healthy living, and STEM.

### **Amanda Welch**

*Arkansas*

Amanda is the Arkansas 4-H Health Program Associate. Amanda has a degree in health education and a National certification in NonProfit Management and Leadership. She received her credentials as a registered yoga instructor and children's yoga instructor in 2020. She has been married for 17 years and has two children.

### **Ashley Dingman**

*Arkansas*

Ashley has been with Arkansas 4-H, for almost 6 years. She has served as the Civic Engagement & Leadership coordinator for 4 years. She serves as the advisor to the state officer team and Ambassadors. Serving as advisor to those youth leadership groups is Ashley's favorite part of her job!

### **Claire Zak**

*Louisiana*

Claire Zak serves as the State 4-H Healthy Living Program Coordinator since 2019, administering Healthy Living Grants. Before joining 4-H, she worked as a Nutrition Agent in EBR parish. Claire loves that her job gives her opportunities to work with youth and adults talking about her favorite subject- food!

### **Xavier Bell**

*Louisiana*

Xavier currently serves as the 4-H Agent in St. John Parish and has been employed with the LSU AgCenter full-time since 2019. He is looking forward to continuing to grow with the youth and adults he serves in St. John Parish.

### **Brian Gautreau**

*Louisiana*

Brian joined Louisiana 4-H in 2019 as the Youth Wetlands Program Coordinator, and currently serves as the STEM Specialist, STEM Board advisor, and 4-H Online System Manager. He enjoys building and delivering programs that provide opportunities and sparks for youth, and the comradery of the Extension family.

### **Coleman Killinger**

*North Carolina*

Coleman Killinger became the 4-H agent in Carteret County in 2019. Her efforts to regain footing for the program in her county have focused on establishing and strengthening community partnerships. These partnerships have increased opportunities for youth, provided financial support, and increased the visibility of the program in the community.

# ACHIEVEMENT IN SERVICE

## Awards

### **D.Monique Pearce-Brady** *North Carolina*

Monique has been with Forsyth County 4-H for five years with an emphasis on urban programming with a focus on digital equity, leadership, STEM, and robotics for underserved and underrepresented audiences.

### **Kaley Lawing** *North Carolina*

Over the last 6 years as a 4-H Extension Agent, Kaley Lawing has written several grants, recruited volunteers, and doubled 4-H youth member numbers. She has chartered 4-H clubs which increased youth participation in 4-H presentations and 4-H project records. 4-H is her passion and where she thrives.

### **Molly Jordan** *Kentucky*

Hello, I am Molly Jordan. I am the very fortunate to be the 4-H Youth Development agent in the county which I grew up. In my free time, my husband Robert and I along with our three children, Hunter, Mitchell, and McKenna like spending times outdoors, camping, hunting, and fishing.

### **Katie Mills** *Kentucky*

Katie Mills has been a 4-H Youth Development Agent for a combined six years in Hopkins and currently in Christian County. She strives to continue to grow as an Agent and to help continue to grow the Christian County 4-H Program to benefit youth in the community.

### **Katie Martin** *Tennessee*

Katie meets 48 clubs 7 times a year and the members do communication contests along with a service project at each meeting. The members are on livestock and ag related judging teams, participate in shooting sports and ATV safety programs. Smith County members participate in regional, state and national events.

### **Roger Clark** *Tennessee*

Roger provides out of school opportunities including: Chick Chain, Wildlife and poultry judging, Grill Masters, Shooting Sports, and camps to allow members the opportunity to gain workforce skills through application of knowledge. This is his second Tennessee Extension County and is excited to be back home.

### **Doug Berney** *Tennessee*

Doug spends most of their 4-H time with livestock programming whether it is preparing 4-H'ers to show animals by certifying the members in Youth Quality Assurance, conducting an embryology project with elementary students, or managing the Chick Chain. This year he facilitated Poultry Processing Clinic for Backyard poultry enthusiasts.

### **Kali Barker** *Tennessee*

Kali works with nearly 700 youth in 4th-8th grade each month through the 4-H program. She teaches life skills as well as parliamentary procedure & leadership. She facilitates judging teams by recruiting volunteers and participants, securing resources needed to assist in the learning process and trains some of the teams.

## Western

### **Savannah Graves** *New Mexico*

Savannah grew up in Las Cruces NM and moved to Animas NM 4 years ago. Outside of work she enjoys spending time outdoors, hunting or working with animals. She shares many adventures with family and her fiancée, Trey. She is marrying the love of her life this September.

### **Emily Lynn Haver** *Wyoming*

Emily L. Haver has been a county 4-H educator for four years in Carbon County Wyoming. She loves the families she has come to know and care about there and the chance she has to impact the lives of their children! When not working, Emily is skiing, hiking, climbing, camping!

### **Mashelle Barlow** *Idaho*

Mashelle Barlow has been University of Idaho Lincoln County 4-H Coordinator for 6 years. She likes working with youth especially in Know Your Government, Summer Camp, and county programs. She values collaborating with other professionals in the state, district, and community on projects for youth.

### **Nadine Cook** *Idaho*

While I have only been in 4-H professionally for 5 years as the University of Idaho Elmore County 4-H Program Coordinator, 4-H is in my blood. I grew up participating in 4-H, my children were active 4-H members, and I was very involved as a leader/volunteer. Still enjoy every day!

### **Inga Hawbaker** *Montana*

Inga Hawbaker has been the agricultural and 4-H agent for MSU Extension in Daniels County since 2018. She enjoys focusing her efforts on providing educational and rewarding youth development activities, and programs in county and regional 4-H programs.

### **Julianne Snedigar** *Montana*

Julianne Snedigar is the Agriculture, Natural Resources, and 4-H Agent for Blaine County. Juli has been in this position for the past 5 years. Her favorite part of working with 4-H is seeing youth excited to succeed, and helping them work hard to achieve their goals.

# ACHIEVEMENT IN SERVICE

## Awards

### **Brenda Vales**

*California*

Brenda Vales is the 4-H Community Education Specialist for the University of California in Contra Costa County. She has supported the local and statewide 4-H program for 6 years; specializing in finance, record keeping, and presentations. Brenda uses her experience to foster life skills in 4-H youth.

### **Christina Pay**

*Utah*

Christina Pay is an Extension Assistant Professor for Utah State University. She is passionate about providing youth with the tools they need to be successful and has co-authored programming that helps build confidence and strengthen resiliency in youth. Christina loves spending time with her husband, Steve, and their family.

### **Deborah Ivie**

*Utah*

Deborah Ivie is the Utah 4-H STEM and Junior Master Gardener lead. She loves helping youth and adults find the STEM connections in everyday activities. She entered the 4-H world as a volunteer 17 years ago and has loved every minute of it.

### **Traci Reed**

*Oregon*

Traci Reed provides leadership for the 4-H Program in Klamath County and hosts everything from animal science field days to volunteer leadership and development. Traci serves as the 4-H Military Liaison for Oregon 4-H and has a special interest in reaching underserved and vulnerable populations of local youth.

### **Melinda Garcia**

*Oregon*

Dr. Melinda Garcia has over two decades of experience working in youth development programs. Melinda enjoys advocating for diversity, equity access, and inclusion and serves on many committees on a state and national level for this cause. Melinda values collaboration, empowering youth, and being and advocate and researcher for 4-H.

### **Jen Loewen**

*Colorado*

Jen Loewen has served in the Pueblo County 4-H Youth Development Specialist role since September of 2019. As a former 4-H member, Jen has a passion for providing valuable and equitable youth-development programming to her County and State, including embryology, leadership, civic engagement, public speaking and youth outreach.

### **Josey Pukrop**

*Colorado*

To bolster a county program that has reached 41,000+ youth since 2019, Josey has increased outreach responsibilities within her position, and prioritized recruitment and retention for club members and volunteers.

### **Merielle Stamm**

*Colorado*

Merielle has worked in Colorado 4-H for 4 years doing outreach and traditional club-based programming. She has stepped out of my comfort zone, learning new things, and forming stronger community connections. She has focused on collaborations with colleagues- often creating new programs, including 4-H20, Mountain-to-Metro, and Peaks-to-Packs camps.

### **Ashley JS Menges**

*Arizona*

Ashley is currently the 4-H and FCHS Assistant Agent for Greenlee County. Previously, she was a 4-H Agent in Pima County. In 2022, she received the Arizona 4-H Staff Excellence Award. She is also extremely active in Farm Bureau, serving as the Arizona Young Farmers and Ranchers Chair.

### **Cassandra Rankin**

*Alaska*

Cassy maintains a strong connection with her local 4-H District Leaders Council, club leaders, livestock superintendents, and local volunteers, and together they maintain a dynamic team that continues to make the best better for their district 4-H youth and families. She also chairs the newly formed state livestock committee.



# DISTINGUISHED SERVICE Awards

*Any current member of NAE4-HYDP who has paid dues (for at least the immediate two consecutive years prior to the current) and has served seven years or more in Extension 4-H youth programs.*

## North Central

### **Susan Quamme**

*North Dakota*

Sue champions inclusivity. She brings accurate and culturally appropriate learning opportunities to 4-H professionals. Relationship building guides her work as the first step to creating safe spaces for youth and adults to expand their knowledge about Indigenous culture. Sue is an excellent mentor and leader for the ND 4-H Ambassadors.

### **Rachel Wald**

*North Dakota*

Rachel is an Extension Agent in McHenry County and has worked with ND 4-H. Within the 4-H program, she works as a Co-Superintendent of the ND 4-H Horseshow, sits on the ND 4-H Equine Committee, and is the Treasurer for NDAE4-HYW. Seeing youth thrive and change is the best part.

### **Michele VanDyke**

*Minnesota*

Michele VanDyke has been the 4-H Extension Educator in Lincoln County since 2018. Prior to that, she worked on the regional level in Minnesota 4-H and was an Extension Agent in Kansas. Michele's favorite part of her role is working with youth in 4-H afterschool, 4-H camp and training counselors.

### **Cassidy Martin**

*Minnesota*

Cassidy has been involved in 4-H for the majority of her life. She is passionate about helping youth share their stories and teaching others about social media. She called Alaska home for a time and that guides her adventurous spirit. She enjoys creative projects such as making family Halloween costumes.

### **Kimberly Fox**

*Minnesota*

Kim Fox has been a member of NAE4-HYDP for 10 years, beginning her Extension career in Benson County, North Dakota and then transitioning to Wright County, Minnesota. One 4-H highlight for Kim has been seeing 4-H'er grow into their leadership roles as ambassadors, camp counselors, and youth shooting sports instructors.

### **Justin Hougham**

*Wisconsin*

Dr. Justin Hougham is a faculty member at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he supports the delivery of a wide range of environmental science education topics to K-12 students, graduate students, and in-service teachers. Justin's scholarship is in the areas of place-based pedagogies, STEM education, and education for sustainability.

### **Joanna Skluzacek**

*Wisconsin*

Joanna obtained her Ph.D. at the UW-Madison Environmental Science and Technology Program. Skluzacek then accepted a Post-doctoral Fellowship from Penn State University as Education and Outreach Coordinator for the Center for Nanoscale Science. Currently, Skluzacek is 4-H Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Specialist and Professor at UW – Madison.

### **Jennifer Ringkob**

*South Dakota*

Jennifer grew up in northeast SD and currently lives on her family's cattle ranch. She is the 4-H Youth Program Advisor for two counties. A graduate of SDSU, Jennifer knew her passion was education. It has been her great pleasure to teach youth through 4-H for the past 12 years.

### **Chandra Plate**

*Kansas*

Chandra Plate is lifelong 4-Her. She grew up following her Extension Agent Mother to 4-H events. Her first choice of career was working as an Extension 4-H Youth Development Agent for Kansas State University. Chandra is now Kansas State University's Extension 4-H Youth Development Specialist for the NW Area.

### **Christy Clary**

*Ohio*

Clary has been the 4-H Educator in Brown County since 2013. Teaching and research specializations include Teen Leadership, Camping, and Shooting Sports. Clary's favorite part of her job is seeing youths' eyes light up when they've found their spark. You can often find her leading camp songs or tie-dying.

### **Rebecca Supinger**

*Ohio*

A 4-H Educator since 2012, Rebecca received degrees from Bowling Green State University and from the University of Dayton. Focusing on 4-H Cloverbuds, she has created educational materials and presented at the national level. Rebecca works with the 4-H military partnership at Wright Patterson Air Force Base.

### **Kristi Stout**

*Illinois*

Kristi Stout, 4-H Youth Development Educator in Illinois, serves Alexander, Johnson, Massac, Pulaski, and Union counties. She possesses a BS Degree in ECE from SIU Carbondale, an MS Degree in Education from Walden University, and an Educational Administration Degree from SIU Carbondale. Kristi resides with her husband and two children.

# DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

## Awards

### **Lisa Manning**

*Ohio*

Lisa serves as FCS/4-H Educator in Lake County. She is a LISW-S with a background working in mental health with children and families. Lisa co-developed OSU's Child Abuse and Neglect training. She also resurrected the 4-H Travel program in her county exposing youth to different cultures.

### **Tracie Montague**

*Ohio*

For 20 years, Tracie has overseen the county 4-H operations for the Clinton County 4-H program with 950 members and volunteers. She has an undergraduate degree from Wilmington College in Communications and a Master's from The Ohio State University in Extension Education. Her focus areas include volunteer and club management.

### **Julie Schultz**

*Nebraska*

Julie Schultz is a 4-H Youth Development Extension Educator in Northeast Nebraska and works out of the Wayne County Office, also serving Pierce County. She works to provide Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) programming to youth through school enrichment, out of school time and traditional 4-H club programming.

### **Megan Hanefeldt**

*Nebraska*

Megan Hanefeldt is a 4-H Youth Development Educator in Cedar and Knox Counties in Nebraska. She previously served as the Knox County Economic Development director, and as a 4-H Assistant in Holt and Boyd Counties. Megan's programming efforts focus on youth leadership development, STEM and the Ag Innovators program.

### **Brenda Welch**

*Iowa*

Brenda Welch has served Iowa 4-H for 25 years. Her specialties include Clover Kids, curriculum development, instructional design, and life skill development. She has co-authored 7 Clover Kids curriculum and is a founding member of Iowa 4-H Enthusiasts Team creating statewide virtual 4-H project focused groups.

### **Natalie Hedlund**

*Iowa*

For 16 years, Natalie has worked for Boone County ISU Extension and Outreach. She enjoys working with the youth in Boone County and making a positive difference in their lives. A much of my job is working with volunteers and making sure they have everything they need to succeed.

### **Julie "Diane" Wolfe**

*Iowa*

Diane has worked 21 years with Black Hawk County. She is active with the Shooting Sports group, Military Kids. She has a Farm to table Program for 1000 2nd graders each year and 900 Farm Time Kindergarteners. She is a Co-author for "On Their Own & OK" curriculum.

### **Lesley Lodmell**

*Indiana*

Lesley has been the Purdue Extension since 2014. Her favorite aspects include serving as camp director, creating volunteer training, and assisting new educators along the way. She helped create some major shifts local programs and beyond and enjoys compiling resources to make everyone's job easier.

### **Abby Morgan**

*Indiana*

Abby Morgan has served as the 4-H Youth Development Educator in Montgomery County since 2015 and serves close to 600 youth in grades K-12. Abby has a passion for afterschool programming and loves teaching programs related to STEM, animal science, and teen leadership.

### **Katie Whiteford**

*Indiana*

Katie Whiteford has been a 4-H Educator with Purdue Extension for over 9 years. Katie is very active in different state and county programs but her passion is the rabbit program. Katie enjoys working with her Area Team to create programs for youth in leadership and science.

## Northeast

### **Jennifer Cushman**

*Connecticut*

Jen Cushman has served as the 4-H Educator in Hartford County since 2015. In addition to leading county programming and volunteer management, her primary areas of focus include STEM, ag literacy, and coordinating state and regional 4-H goat programming. Jen also provides statewide 4-H team leadership.

### **Liz Kenton**

*Vermont*

Liz Kenton coordinates UVM Extension's 4-H's Youth Agriculture Project, providing hands-on programs that help young people build life and job skills through educational events and professional development focused on agriculture, science, and career exploration. She is a returned Peace Corps Volunteer and an avid reader.

### **Kendra Lewis**

*New Hampshire*

Kendra is a State Specialist for Health & Wellbeing, coordinating and delivering social, emotional, and mental health programming to NH residents, particularly youth. She is a co-author of two 4-H mindfulness curricula, Mindful Me and Mindful Mechanics.

### **Laura Wilson**

*Maine*

Laura Wilson has been a professional with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension since 2001. Wilson's background is in environmental science outreach. In 2012 she began working with UMaine 4-H. She collaborates with UMaine faculty and staff to increase opportunities for 4-H youth to engage with campus STEM programs.

### **Jen McKinley**

*Pennsylvania*

Jen is the 4-H educator in Beaver County, Pennsylvania. She enjoys being outside and spending time with her family and friends.

# DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

## Awards

### **Lesley Sears**

*West Virginia*

Lesley Sears has been the 4-H Extension Agent in Summer County for 11 years. She has worked with other agents in her county providing her community with Healthy Living Opportunities throughout the year. Lesley has served on various state and national committees as well.

### **Robin Haynes**

*West Virginia*

Robin has been an 4-H Extension Agent in Greenbrier County for 16 years. She has served on various committees at the state and national level.

### **Donald Dransfield**

*West Virginia*

Don has served the Monroe County 4-H Program for 17 years. He is also a co-director of the West Virginia 4-H Shooting Sports Program and Ultimate Outdoor Weekend at Jackson's Mill.

### **Jennifer L. Collins**

*New York*

Jennifer balances family, farming, her extension career and has strengthened her county 4-H program in a number of project areas. She has exposed thousands of youth to agriculture career tracks. This has been achieved through her collaborations, support of statewide agricultural educational events and steering the statewide Agribusiness Career Trip.

### **Betsy McKay**

*District of Columbia*

Betsy McKay is the Vice President of Operations for National 4-H Council where she focuses on project management, office oversight and management of administrative operations. Betsy plays an integral role in supporting youth development from assisting with Council's new office in DC to national 4-H events.

## Southern

### **Alex Shook**

*Mississippi*

Alex has served as the 4-H agent in Pearl River County, MS since 2013. His passion lies in the areas of animal science and camping. He holds a Bachelors degree from Louisiana Tech University, Masters from Mississippi State university. Alex currently serves as the MAE4-HA as president.

### **Ross Overstreet**

*Mississippi*

Ross Overstreet is a graduate of MS State University and an Extension Agent with the MS State University Extension Service in the Lamar County office for the past 10 years. Ross currently services as Vice-President of the MS Association County Agricultural Agents.

### **Lucy Charping**

*South Carolina*

Lucy Charping is a Youth Development Agent in Greenwood, SC. She offers a variety of programs and projects in her county ranging from STEM to Agriculture. Her passion is livestock projects and helping children show their animals and learn more about the species. She is currently on the SCAE4-HA board.

### **Samantha Morrow**

*Tennessee*

Samantha Morrow is a 4-H Agent in Wayne County, TN. She is the Professional Committee Chair in her state association, and is on multiple committees at the state and regional level.

### **Deborah Stewart**

*Utah*

Deborah Ivie is the Utah 4-H STEM and Junior Master Gardener lead. She loves helping youth and adults find the STEM connections in everyday activities. She entered the 4-H world as a volunteer 17 years ago and has loved every minute of it.

### **Megan Shaffer**

*Texas*

Megan Shaffer began her career in the Panhandle in Hutchinson County in 2012. Today, as the District 8 4-H Specialist, Megan enjoys getting to work with her County Extension Agents to grow their programs, put new practices in place and enjoy their jobs.

### **Tanya Holloway**

*Texas*

Tanya Holloway is the Family & Community Health Agent in Hemphill County. She has been an agent for nearly 14 years. Tanya has a heart for teaching youth and making a difference in their lives. She goes above and beyond for the youth in her county.

### **Lorrie Coop**

*Texas*

Lorrie Coop is a district Extension administrator in the Rolling Plains. Her career began as a FCH agent in Knox County in 2004. She has been a member since 2008 and served on several committees during that time. Lorrie enjoys working with 4-H youth in all aspects of the program.

### **Rebekah Greene**

*Georgia*

Rebekah Greene serves as the 4-H Agent in Tattnall County, Georgia. Her work focuses on STEM, Communications, and Agriculture. She and her husband, Ross, have two children, Sara and Sam.

### **Crystal Perry**

*Georgia*

Since 2014, Dr. Crystal Perry has expanded 4-H programming and implemented innovative diversity and inclusion projects. She is passionate about serving vulnerable populations and has over 18 years of experience working with families. In addition, Dr. Perry has an academic background and specialization in family studies and intervention strategies.



# DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

## Awards

### **Jacqueline Nunn**

*Georgia*

Jackie graduated from East Tennessee State University with her Master's in Counseling. She began working as the 4-H County Extension Agent in Ware County, and is now the 4-H Agent in Putnam County. She has worked to emphasize Agriculture Awareness, Healthy Living, Career and College Readiness, and English Language Arts.

### **Laura Valencia**

*Florida*

Since 2012, Ms. Valencia has specializes in developing and implementing new, innovative cultural programming for diverse audiences to increase their participation in the 4-H Program. She serves as the county manager of various grants that bring the positive youth development program to Latinx and other underrepresented families.

### **Shaina Spann**

*Florida*

Shaina Spann is the Baker County 4-H Agent. Shaina is an alumna (BS'11, MS'13) of the University of Florida's Agricultural Education and Communication department. Her passion for teaching has led to a meaningful career in Extension for eleven years.

### **Jonette Mungo**

*Virginia*

Prior to working for VA Cooperative Extension, Jonette was a secondary classroom teacher of 15 years. She has a passion for learning and creating. Her goals are to grow diverse 4-H programs, reach new urban audiences in VA Beach, and create new curricula to meet their needs.

### **Jessica Street**

*Arkansas*

Jessica Street has been a 4-H agent in Benton County, Arkansas for 15 years. She is passionate about the 4-H livestock and leadership programs. Jessica has had multiple state-winning teams in Livestock Judging and Livestock Skillathon. She has 2 dogs, Dolly and Kenny, and loves music and being outdoors.

### **Rachel Bearden**

*Arkansas*

Rachel has been the County Agent in Hot Spring County for six years focusing on agriculture and 4-H, especially the 4-H Veterinary Science Program. She has a bachelors in Biology and Agriculture Science, minoring in Animal Science. She also has a masters in the Arts of Teaching and Agriculture Science.

### **Brittany Zaunbrecher**

*Louisiana*

Cameron Parish Brittany began her career as a 4-H Agent in 2014 in Cameron Parish Louisiana. She served as LAE4-HYDP President from 2022-2023 and has previously held the positions of Treasurer and Public Relations Chair. She earned a master's degree from LSU in 2017 in Ag Extension, Education, and Evaluation.

### **Olivia Picard**

*Louisiana*

Olivia began her career as a 4-H Agent / LAE4-HYDP Member in 2014. She showed livestock as a 4-H youth. Olivia has created club lessons focused on STEM and Ag Awareness. Her favorite part of the job is watching youth grow from shy kids to leaders in their community

### **Janna Bennet**

*Louisiana*

Janna Bennett has been a 4-H agent in Caldwell Parish for 8 years. She has been married to Chris Bennett for 29 years, and they have 1 daughter Leslee. Jana enjoys spending time with her family. Her favorite thing about her job is watching the 4-H'ers grow as leaders.

### **Meredith Wood**

*North Carolina*

Meredith has been a 4-H Agent for over 7 years in Perquimans County and Johnston County. She works hard to provide opportunities for youth through her growing 4-H programs by thinking of innovative ways to engage with families. She also pursues professional development opportunities as well.

### **Kelsey Chadwick**

*Kentucky*

Kelsey Chadwick has served as a 4-H Youth Development Agent for the past seven years, working first in Carlisle County and now in Graves County. Kelsey enjoys teaching leadership and cultural/global education, supporting volunteers, and creating new programs to meet community needs.

### **Tammara Talley**

*North Carolina*

Tammara Talley has worked with NC Cooperative Extension for 20 years and with Macon County 4-H for 10 years. Tammara's main goal is to help bridge the gap between adults with special skills and youth that want to learn hands-on.

### **Allison Walker**

*North Carolina*

Allison Walker has more than doubled the Randolph County 4-H in the 7 years she has been there. Her passion for agricultural education has created many successful school enrichment, summer, and special interest programs. She is dedicated to the youth she serves and continues to make the best better,

### **Wade Raymer**

*Kentucky*

Wade Raymer has served for 19 years; his enthusiasm and commitment to youth has shined throughout. In addition to bringing \$1.8 million in grants to Webster County, he provided diverse programming, developed strong volunteer bases, and inspired countless youth to reach their highest potential as caring, competent leaders.

### **Lacy Harnage**

*Tennessee*

Lacy is the manager of the York 4-H Center. She manages a facility that is open year-round with traditional 4-H camps in the summer and STEM programming during the school year for schools and 4-H programs. York 4-H Center is the host of the Southern Region Teen Leadership Conference.

# DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

## Awards

### **Melissa Shelton**

*Tennessee*

Melissa conducts in-school clubs, with over 700 students learning public speaking skills, career choices, and other life skill topics. She also provides nutritional, food safety and cooking programming through Day Camps, the Grill Master Challenge and FCS Skillathon Teams. She is extremely passionate and dedicated to her job.

### **Amanda Paschall**

*Tennessee*

Amanda conducts in school and homeschool 4-H clubs that meet 6 times a year with a total of 216 club meetings in 5 school districts meeting a total of 5,270 contacts. In the summer, she conducts STEM day camps and a cooking camp with her co-worker plus coaches judging teams.

### **Emily Mote**

*Tennessee*

Emily and co-workers conducted a regional 4-day/3-night camp for 7th-10th grade 4-H'ers that focused on offering educational activities in the Forestry/Wildlife/Fisheries, Outdoor Recreation, and Communication/Public Speaking project areas. Her Shooting Sports program took 17 shooters to the Spring Shotgun Jamboree.

## Western

### **Nancy Ooki**

*Hawaii*

Since beginning her position in 2015 with the University of Hawaii Cooperative Extension, Nancy Ooki has designed and implemented programs focused on three areas of educational programming: Agriculture Education, Workforce Development/Life Skills, and Technology. She is currently an Associate Extension Agent faculty member in the Family and Consumer Sciences Department.

### **Johnathan Despain**

*Wyoming*

Johnathan has a passion for young people and the 4-H program! He has served as Wyoming's State 4-H Program Coordinator for the past 20 years and worked at the county level prior to that. He loves a good football game and talking animals with his 3 children and granddaughter.

### **Andrea Stapp**

*New Mexico*

Andrea Stapp has worked to enhance the lives of youth in New Mexico through the 4-H Youth Development Program in Chaves County since 2014. Serving as the 4-H Agent, she strived to share her love for youth and passion to encourage those youths to become upstanding citizens in their community.

### **Elli Korthuis**

*Oregon*

Elli Korthuis is a 4-H Program Coordinator with passions for photography, expressive arts, and small animals. Outside of her 4-H career, Elli is a 4-H judge and runs a small photography business. Cloverbuds is where Elli finds her joy as she loves to create opportunities to explore new project areas.

### **Trisha Applebee**

*Oregon*

Trisha Applebee has served Oregon 4-H over a decade, currently as the Administrative Assistant to the State 4-H Program Leader. Trisha has an exceptional eye for managing and reporting accurate data. Trisha provides unprecedented support to State and County Faculty and Staff as a valuable member of the 4-H team.

### **Kellie Chichester**

*Wyoming*

Kellie Chichester, University of Wyoming 4-H/Youth Development Educator has been working with the youth of Niobrara County for seven years. During this time, she has been a part of some amazing programming, most recently the Wyoming Food, Fun, 4-H, the Rocky Mountain Youth Entrepreneurship program and 4-H Fridays.

### **Tina Miller**

*Idaho*

Tina has 22 years of experience in 4-H, both as a Coordinator and as an Extension Educator. She grew up in the 4-H program and has a passion for teaching youth life skills and helping adults with positive youth development.

### **Tim Ewers**

*Idaho*

Tim Ewers hails from the great state of Idaho where he has the privilege of working in the State 4-H Office as a STEM and Evaluation Specialist. Tim was an early adopter of educational robotics, introducing and implementing educational robotics throughout Idaho over the past 18 years.

### **Kari Lewis**

*Montana*

Kari Lewis began her Extension career in Glacier County, Montana on May 1, 2014. Since then, the 4-H enrollment in her county has more than doubled. Her passions are livestock education, mentoring teens on leadership projects, and helping 4-Hers take advantage of all the opportunities that 4-H has to offer.

### **Janell Barber**

*Montana*

Janell Barber has worked for MSU Extension in Chouteau County for seven-years connecting with constituents through FCS, 4-H, and community leadership. Growing-up in 4-H and as an active 4-H volunteer, she credits 4-H as the reason she is able to work as an agent, doing what she loves, helping others.

### **Vera Bullard**

*California*

Vera M. Bullard is a Regional 4-H Program Coordinator for the University of California, covering the Sierra Nevada Region. Vera's passionate about civic engagement, public speaking, inclusion, accessibility, and volunteer development. She currently chairs the Statewide Public Speaking and Communications Advisory Committee and serves on the Civic Engagement Advisory Committee.

# DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

## Awards

### **Kelsey Romney**

*Utah*

Kelsey Romney is a faculty member at Utah State University specializing in Extension Youth Programs. Her focus is creating career pathways for youth through Utah 4-H statewide. Over the past five years, she's created several career readiness programs that include topics about resume writing, college & career exploration, and entrepreneurship.

### **Elizabeth Davis**

*Utah*

Elizabeth Davis is an Extension Associate Professor at Utah State University. She loves her work with the 4-H program and has focused on STEM programming to help youth prepare for a successful future. Elizabeth works and lives in Kanab where she enjoys the incredible outdoor opportunities and the amazing community.

### **Kenzie Kimmel**

*Colorado*

Kenzie is proud to have worked in Extension as a 4-H Educator for 8 years. She has been lucky to have had the opportunity to work with great families, and great colleagues during this time who have supported in her efforts to innovate and continually learn.

### **Kim Eastwood**

*Colorado*

I have the privilege of working for Weld County Extension as the 4-H Youth Development Agent, overseeing 950 youth members and 200 adult volunteers since 2015. I hold a true passion for 4-H and hope that I can continue to positively influence our members for years to come.

### **Marlena Griesse**

*Colorado*

Marlena values the creativity that her position allows. In her time as a 4-H professional, she has worked to create curricula and programs which meet the needs of her community, while also supporting state and national 4-H goals.



# MERITORIOUS SERVICE

## Awards

*Any current member of NAE4-HYDP who has paid dues (for at least the immediate four consecutive years prior to the current) and has served fifteen years or more in Extension 4-H youth programs. Award winners have demonstrated innovative youth programming and leadership in the NAE4-HYDP association at the state, regional, and/or national level.*

### North Central

#### **Sue Isbell**

*North Dakota*

The commitment and dedication Sue has for the youth of the Standing Rock Reservation are endless. The youth entrepreneurship programs through the school have enabled much youth to see themselves as business professionals. Many Sioux County youth are able to have great experiences because of Sue's tireless dedication.

#### **Kia Harries**

*Minnesota*

Kia believes Extension work is similar to a gardener who plants a seed and nurtures growth. She encourages staff, youth, volunteers and community members and partners to try new things and grow and blossom with their skills.

#### **Annie Lisowski**

*Wisconsin*

Lisowski has been a positive youth development educator since 2006. Lisowski's programmatic work centers on collaborative initiatives that engage young people in partnership with adults to address community needs. She centers research on youth behavioral health prevention, program quality in out of school time programs, and equity and restorative justice.

#### **Bruce Zimmer**

*Ohio*

Bruce Zimmer is an Associate Professor with Ohio State University Extension and has served as a 4-H Youth Development Extension Educator since 1989. Specializing in pre-adolescent education and community club programming, he focuses on developing 4-H Cloverbud resources, Cloverbud volunteer training resources, STEM education, and livestock project education.

#### **Tracy Anderson**

*Nebraska*

Tracy Anderson has been educating and mentoring youth for over 30 years. She began her career teaching elementary education and is currently a 4-H Extension Educator serving as the 4-H Youth Development Urban Program Coordinator for Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County.

#### **Amy Powell**

*Iowa*

Amy Powell is an Animal Science Education specialist in the area of Livestock. She has presented over 20 programs in Iowa and around the nation. She assisted in writing Animal U Curriculum. She was presented Visionary Award for Iowa State University Extension. She helped creating Monarchs on the Move kit.

#### **Kathleen Bohde**

*Indiana*

Kathleen Bohde is an advocate of youth to find their voice in their local community and use it. She facilitates A Chance to Serve, youth leadership program, places 60 youth on community board for a year. She also provides leadership for a 4-H program of over 1,600 youth.

### Northeast

#### **Maryann Fusco-Rollins**

*Connecticut*

Maryann Fusco-Rollins began her career with UConn 4-H in 2003 and has served as the 4-H Program Administrator/Educational Program Coordinator in Tolland County since 2010. She serves as the state STEM leader and coordinates county, state and regional 4-H dog programming, along with positive youth development programs and volunteer management.

#### **Martha Seifert**

*Vermont*

Martha Seifert is the 4-H Educator for Addison County where she manages the highest club youth enrollment in Vermont. Martha coordinates knowledge enhancing clinics in livestock projects areas, from horse and dairy to beef. Martha also hosts Foods Day where youth learn about food, nutrition, and exercise.

#### **Ernesto B Lopez**

*Delaware*

Dr. Ernesto B. "Ernie" Lopez is a 24-year employee of the University of Delaware with 17 years of service as the State 4-H Volunteer Specialist with a focus on the retention, recruitment, and risk management of adult 4-H leaders and youth.

#### **Donna Lee**

*New Hampshire*

Donna Lee serves as a 4-H professional in New Hampshire since 2007. As a Program Manager, she focuses on matching volunteers' strengths to areas of need in her county. This investment in her volunteers has led to positive relationships and a successful 4-H program for over 15 years.

#### **Chad Ripberger**

*New Jersey*

Chad Ripberger, the Mercer County 4-H Agent for Rutgers Cooperative Extension in central New Jersey since 2003, has partnered with many organizations throughout the Trenton area to expand opportunities for youth, especially in STEM. Longstanding programs have included the Rutgers 4-H STEM Ambassadors and the Tomorrow's Innovators Science Saturday initiative.

# MERITORIOUS SERVICE

## Awards

### **Linda B. Hendricks** *Pennsylvania*

4-H has been an important piece of my life for over fifty-five years. From the first 4-H meeting I attended, I realized the importance of the four-leaf clover. Watching youth grow into important members of society after experiencing the 4-H Program is what I consider my greatest accomplishment.

### **Kristy Ouellette** *Maine*

Dr. Kristy Ouellette's work focuses on intentional experiences for young people which fuel their sparks and discovery of new skills and relationships. Her work focuses on bringing high-quality programming to young people across the state, specifically on creating access and opportunities for those the 4-H program has not traditionally served.

### **Elaine M. Noble** *New York*

Elaine Noble has worked for CCE Chemung as a 4-H professional for 21 years. Elaine and her husband Stuart of 31 years, have 3 grown children, Maria, Wesley, and Cory. Elaine also works on her family's 191-year-old dairy farm, Nobledale Jerseys. Elaine's hobbies include showing cattle, reading, and traveling.

### **Jill Bramble** *District of Columbia*

Jill Bramble is the Executive Vice President and Chief Growth Officer of National 4 H Council. She focuses on the enterprise alignment of people, marketing, partnerships, and processes to drive revenue, so all youth have an opportunity to access 4 H positive youth development.

## Southern

### **Kristen Clark** *Texas*

Kristen Clark has been an Extension Agent for 15 years in Anderson & Johnson Counties. She was instrumental in starting a Youth Ag Tour to teach youth about ag careers and the agriculture industry. The most rewarding part is seeing youth turn into community leaders with outstanding careers.

### **Jenny Thompson** *Virginia*

Jenny has served as the 4-H Agent in Louisa County, VA for 17 years. During that time, she has increased 4-H participation by 75%. Her focus areas are teen leadership, natural resources, and camping. In her personal life she is a wife and mother of two great kids!

### **Dinah D. Rowe** *Georgia*

Dinah has been employed in Heard County for 18 years. She has focused on healthy lifestyles, Opioid and vaping awareness, leadership development, civic engagement and ag awareness. She works across county lines to collaborate with other agents and develop programs. Her biggest reward is working with the youth.

### **Crystal McCazzio** *Florida*

Crystal McCazzio became a UF/IFAS 4-H Extension agent in 2007 in Putnam County until 2022 when she transferred to Marion County. She holds a master's degree in Agricultural Education and Communication from the University of Florida and has a deeply rooted passion for youth development that began as a youth.

### **Jesse Bocksnick** *Arkansas*

Jesse has tried to improve the lives of all clientele. He depended on his extension agents as he grew up in 4-H and has tried to be the same positive role model and provide the same positive experiences that his agents did. He has the greatest job in the world.

### **Kimberly Williams** *Louisiana*

Kimberly's 21-year career includes work as a 4-H Agent in both Terrebonne and Iberville Parishes. She is currently a 4-H Program Development Specialist, providing leadership in the areas of Civic Engagement (Character, SEL, Citizenship and Service-Learning). She also serves as an Adjunct Professor at LSU, in the AEEE Department.

### **Catherine Webster** *Kentucky*

Catherine has been the 4-H youth development agent in Simpson County for 23 years. Her county 4-H program includes volunteer led community clubs, agent led school enrichment programs, and a long running teen interstate exchange club. She's also previously served on the NAE4-HYDP Board as the Membership Recognition Chair.

### **Amy Lucas** *North Carolina*

I am very proud of the 4-H program that has been developed in Alleghany County over the last 15 years and of my career as a whole. I have grown immensely as a professional and as an individual. Being a member of my association has been crucial to my success.

### **Emily Osterhause** *Tennessee*

Emily works annually with 2500 4th-8th graders by teaching life skills dealing with communication, careers, finance, teamwork and how to apply for a job. By developing these skills, the teens participate in FCS Skillathon and Consumer Decision Making judging teams. She currently is the TAE4-HW president-elect.

# MERITORIOUS SERVICE

## Awards

### Western

#### Claire Sponseller

*Idaho*

As a member of the University of Idaho State 4-H team, Claire builds community engagement, collaborative partnerships, and expands STEM education across the state. Claire loves her role of supporting out-of-school educators to deliver quality, hands-on, informal education where failure is welcomed.

#### Mary Louise Wood

*Wyoming*

Mary Louise Wood has been a 4-H/Youth Development educator for the University of Wyoming for 15 years. She just transitioned from Albany County in SE Wyoming to Park County in NW Wyoming. Mary Louise was a long-time volunteer before becoming a professional. She feels this gives her a unique perspective.

#### Marc King

*Montana*

Marc King has been the Sweet-Grass County Extension Agent since 1993. Marc has been active in the 4-H program on a local, state, and regional basis. He has worked in the livestock projects but provides support for all other projects and programs. Marc has been successful in coaching 4-H Livestock-Judging-Teams.

#### Lynn Schmitt-McQuitty

*California*

Lynn has had a rich career with appointments at the University of Wisconsin and the University of California. During her 26-year career, Lynn has served the 4-H Youth development program as a staff member, as a county-based academic in STEM, county director, vice provost and state program leader.

#### Todd Williver

*Oregon*

Todd Williver has spent over two decades serving communities through Extension. Todd worked as County Faculty for over a decade before becoming Oregon's 4-H Shooting Sports Program Manager. Splitting his time between Oregon and Alaska's Shooting Sports Program, Todd's passion for helping youth shines on a State and National level.

#### Travis Taylor

*Colorado*

My almost 20 years of 4-H Youth work in Colorado and Wyoming has been an incredible journey. So much of what I have accomplished is attributable to my many amazing colleagues, support staff and especially my wife and fellow extension professional, Lacey Taylor. Thanks to every one of you!



### Class of 2023 Laureates

**Dr. Kirk Astroth (NAE4-HYDP)**

**Carlton P. "C.P." Dorsey (West Virginia)**

**James "Jim" R. Helt (Ohio)**

**Christy Bartley (Pennsylvania)**

**James "Jim" Kahler (USDA/NIFA)**

**Dr. Juliette Bell (National 4-H Council)**

**Dr. Maurice Kramer (Indiana)**

**Linda Branstette (Kentucky)**

**Jennifer Nettles (National 4-H Council)**

**Trisha Cash (Kansas)**

**Sue Pleskac (Wisconsin)**

**Karen P. Crouse (Delaware)**

**Barbara J. Sawyer (Oregon)**



# 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

## Awards

*All current NAE4-HYDP members who have complete 25 years of service or more to 4-H youth programs during the current year, as of January 31, 2023.*

### North Central

#### **Penny Tank**

*Wisconsin*

4-H Community Club programming has been the emphasis of Tank's work in Waupaca County for 25 years. She has focused on youth project and life skill development, volunteer development and support, and youth adult partnerships. Membership includes 400 youth and 170 adult volunteers in 18 clubs and 5 project committees.

#### **Jodi Black**

*Ohio*

Jodi grew the county program to 600 residential campers and led 100 plus clubs. As a State 4-H Youth Livestock Specialist she redesigned livestock programs to include Resource Handbooks, Livestock Learning Laboratory Kits, Skillathons and the Outstanding Exhibitor Program. She currently teaches hydroponic, aeroponic gardening through School Enrichment Programming.

#### **Tracy Anderson**

*Nebraska*

Tracy Anderson has been educating and mentoring youth for over 30 years. She began her career teaching elementary education and is currently a 4-H Extension Educator serving as the 4-H Youth Development Urban Program Coordinator for Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County.

#### **Dorothy Munn**

*Michigan*

Dorothy Munn, a policy and risk management educator, started her career in January 1998. Dorothy offers policy and risk management programming and professional development to youth development staff across Michigan. She also provides direct support while serving as the point of contact for staff around policy, compliance, and risk management.

### Northeast

#### **Lisa Rothenburger**

*New Jersey*

Lisa Rothenburger, the Somerset County 4-H Agent since 1997, has been nationally recognized for her leadership and educational initiatives in youth empowerment and STEM focused initiatives.

#### **Margaret Miltenberger**

*West Virginia*

Margaret has served Mineral County and West Virginia 4-H for 25 years. She has served on various committees at the county, state, and national levels. She has served as a mentor for several other agents across her region. She also takes pride in her county Energy Express program.

### Southern

#### **Becky Walker**

*Oklahoma*

Becky Walker serves the Oklahoma 4-H Youth Development Program as a county educator programming in the areas of leadership development, volunteer development, civic engagement and healthy living. She is the 2019 Oklahoma Extension Service Distinguished Educator, the highest rank earned by an educator, and 2019 Oklahoma 4-H Outstanding Alumna.

#### **Kendra J. K. Young**

*Virginia*

4-H All Star, Kendra Young grew up in 4-H in Montgomery County and serves as the Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development in Henrico County (past 4-H agent in Middlesex and Patrick Counties). Kendra's programs always strive "To Make the Best Better" at the local, district, state, national, and international levels.

#### **Lori Purcell Bledsoe**

*Georgia*

Dr. Bledsoe has been working as the 4-H Program Development Coordinator in Northwest District for 21 years. She grew up in Georgia 4-H. She has been awarded the Walter B. Hill Public Service and Outreach Award, UGA's College of Ag's Walter B. Bill award, and was NAE4-HYDP President in 2011.

#### **Al Parker**

*Georgia*

Dr. Parker is the Northeast District 4-H Program Development Coordinator, managing the 4-H programs in 40 counties. He served as a 4-H Agent over Fannin, Rabun, Towns, and Union Counties before moving to the 4-H Agent in Putnam County. He recently received his Ph. D. in Education Administration and Policy.

#### **Lori Wiggins**

*Florida*

Lori is the County Extension Director and Family & Consumer Sciences Agent in Taylor County. Lori is known for her work with healthy lifestyles programming. Her concentration on the needs and interests of individuals in her rural community has helped her reach diverse audiences through healthy lifestyles education.

#### **Shannon Caldwell**

*Arkansas*

Shannon has spent 25 years working with the programs at the C. A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center. Shannon says going to work in a beautiful location, with an incredible team, and a wide range of learners is a privilege and an honor that she hopes to continue through to retirement.

# 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

## Awards

### **Keith Perkins**

*Arkansas*

As the Staff Chair (and Agriculture Agent) in Lonoke County, I supervise five employees, including three agents and two administrative professionals. I take unbiased research and implement it into production agriculture. I am also responsible for the community development program and working with youth in agriculture and outdoor education.

### **Crystal Smith**

*North Carolina*

Crystal served as 4-H Agent in Franklin, Granville, and Warren counties and currently serves as County Extension Director and Family & Consumer Science Agent. She is proud of the diverse population she served during her career, coaching them to their highest potential on the county, district, state, and national levels.

### **Sandy Hall**

*North Carolina*

Sandy Hall became the 4-H agent in Nash in 1998 after serving as a Program Assistant in Edgecombe. After 20 years as 4-H Agent in Nash, she assumed the role of County Extension Director. Her service included State Vice President and Director of the Northeast and North Central Districts.

### **Tanya Heath**

*North Carolina*

Tanya Heath became the 4-H agent in Wilson County, NC in 1996. After 13 years of working in 4-H, she became a Livestock Extension agent in the neighboring county. In 2015, she came back to be the 4-H Extension Agent in Edgecombe County and County Extension Director in 2019.

### **Joseph Donaldson**

*North Carolina*

This professional has an exceptional 25-year record of empowering 4-H youth, volunteers, families, and professionals. He has served as a 4-H agent, volunteer, Extension specialist, and faculty member. He coordinates the Extension internship program and develops future Extension professionals. His research and evaluation have amplified 4-H program outcomes and accountability.

### **Cathy Toole**

*Kentucky*

Cathy has a passion for youth and a love of the 4-H program that helped shape her own life. As she began her career her one goal was to provide quality and varied opportunities for youth to experience and grow as leaders and adults.

### **Raymond Cox**

*Kentucky*

After 27 years of teaching and coaching Raymond Cox retired in 1997, then went on to become the Harlan Co. 4-H Agent, with an emphasis on school and teen programming. Raymond has been married to his college sweetheart Donna for 53 years. He has three children and 11 grandchildren.

### **Greg Austin**

*Tennessee*

Greg is a County Director with an emphasis in 4-H programming. He is known across the region and state for his work in livestock and agriculture related judging teams. His Forestry team won state and will compete in the 2023 National Forestry Invitational.

### **Sierra Knaus**

*Tennessee*

Sierra's county is known for a strong camping program. There is always a waiting list to attend camp and many of the campers attend on scholarship. Last year almost \$12,000 was given as Camp Scholarships. She also conducts On My Own with middle school students teaching personal finance skills.

### **Emily Osterhaus**

*Tennessee*

Emily works annually with 2500 4th-8th graders by teaching life skills dealing with communication, careers, finance, teamwork and how to apply for a job. By developing these skills, the teens participate in FCS Skillathon and Consumer Decision Making judging teams. She currently is the TAE4-HW president-elect.

## Western

### **Warren Crawford**

*Wyoming*

Warren is a State Youth Development Specialist with the University of Wyoming Extension. His primary responsibilities include coordinating all natural resource, citizenship, and leadership development programs. Warren has a master's degree in Education and Instructional Technology from the University of Wyoming and a B.S. in Economics from Utah State University.

### **Dawn Sanchez**

*Wyoming*

Dawn Sanchez career spans 26 years in two counties and the Wyoming State 4-H Office. She is currently in Laramie County and has a primary focus on non-traditional 4-H and the Wyoming Military Program. She enjoys spending time in the barn and on the road with her three children.

### **Vanessa Tranel**

*Colorado*

Vanessa has worked for CSU Extension since 1995, in various capacities: 4-H Agent, County Director/4-H, U.S.D.A. Army Youth Development Specialist in Atlanta, GA, and currently as the State 4-H Specialist and Military Liaison serving three Space Force Bases, the U.S. Air Force Academy, Fort Carson (Army) and guard/reserve programs.

# **SPECIAL THANKS**

## **to our Conference Exhibitors & Sponsors**

### **Elite Sponsors**

**American Income Life Special Risk Division**

**Clemson University Press - Journal of Youth Development**

**NAE4-HYDP 2024**

**National 4-H Council**

**National Agriculture in the Classroom/ Nutrien**

**Rixstine Recognition**

**Strengthening the Heartland**

**The Fair Publishing House**

**4-H Zoo Apprentice Camp - University of Missouri Extension**

### **Contributing Sponsors**

**4-H History Preservation Project**

**4-H Military Partnership**

**4-H Pottery**

**4imprint**

**Author My Day LLC**

**Glory Be Collectibles**

**IFYE Association of the USA, Inc.**

**National 4-H Council Camping Programs**

**National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety**

**Nature Watch**

**Ohio State University Extension Publishing**

**Oregon State University Distant, Immersive, Virtual Education for Agriculture Literacy**

**Penn State Extension**

**Progressive Agriculture Foundation**

**Real Colors**

**RegistrationMax LLC**

**Safety in Agriculture for Youth (SAY) Project**

**Skillastics**

**Terri Lynn Fundraising**

**The Henry Ford**

**UltraCamp, LLC**





SIGN UP TODAY!



## EMPOWER ALL YOUNG PEOPLE TO FIND THEIR SPARK.

Hundreds of activities across 21 learning categories in CLOVER, the all new platform by 4-H. [4-H.org/cloversignup](https://4-H.org/cloversignup)



MAKE THRIVE SERVE GROW  
THRIVE MAKE SERVE MAKE SERVE  
SERVE GROW MAKE THRIVE

THE **Fair**  
PUBLISHING HOUSE

1

ONLY 1 GRAND CHAMPION

ONLY 1  
**Fair**  
PUBLISHING HOUSE

ONLY 1 BEST IN SHOW

Phone: 419.668.3746

Fax: 800.340.9988

[orders@fairsupplies.com](mailto:orders@fairsupplies.com)

[www.fairpublishing.com](http://www.fairpublishing.com)

Proudly Made in the USA



# Feeding the Future by empowering youth



Nutrien is dedicated to feeding the future sustainably.

We are proud to support 4-H across North America, sharing deep roots in rural and agricultural communities. We are inspired by the innovation and energy of youth 4-H members

**Nutrien**  
[www.nutrien.com](http://www.nutrien.com)





**Strengthening the Heartland invests in the wellness of rural communities across the United States through mental health resources and educational materials.**

We offer hands-on, free training for youth development professionals including counselors, social workers, and 4-H Extension educators. Our programming ranges in topics from resilience, suicidality in youth, gaming addiction, grief, mindfulness, and much more.

- **OPPORTUNITIES** for piloting new and innovative educational materials
- **FREE NBCC CE Hour Opportunities**
- **FREE materials, giveaways, and more**

We want to support you in your work of helping these communities thrive. Sign up for our event updates at:

**[connect.strengtheningtheheartland.com](https://connect.strengtheningtheheartland.com)**



**DO YOU WORK WITH YOUTH?**  
Our "How-to" webinar series provides professional development on positive youth development including:

Promoting Grit and Resilience  
Accessibility in Youth Programming  
Assessing Youth Learning Outcomes  
Advocating for Youth in Foster Care

AND MUCH MORE!

UPCOMING

## ETHICS WEBINAR SERIES

Learn How to Ethically Support Youth Mental Health

We'd love to see you at our upcoming webinar series!  
Use the QR Code to the left to receive event updates.



**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE  
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION**

**NDSU**

EXTENSION



**STRENGTHENING the  
HEARTLAND**





# Rixstine RECOGNITION

**Proud Sponsor of NAE4-HYDP**

## **FairAwards.com**

**AWARDS • RIBBONS • APPAREL • PROMOTIONAL ITEMS**



**Officially  
Licensed**



**2350 O Street  
Lincoln, NE 68510  
800.347.3810 EXT 213  
FAIRS@RIXSTINE.COM**



Celebrating

Connections

and Success!

2024 National Conference

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EXTENSION  
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONALS

Save the Date

**Oct. 15-17, 2024**  
**Boise, Idaho**

*Boise Centre*  
*850 W. Front Street*



[NAE4HYDP.org](http://NAE4HYDP.org)