



Epsilon Sigma Phi-Pi Chapter Awards 2008

Your Key to Professional Excellence

❖ Distinguished Service

Dorothy McCargo Freeman has focused her career and leadership on re-building the fabric and supports to strengthen the 4-H program, making sure that it remains a cutting edge youth program in the 21st century. She has provided state and national leadership for Extension professionals in reaching out to underserved, diverse youth audiences to get them engaged in the 4-H program and develop their own leadership skills. Dorothy has challenged and empowered her staff to be innovative in promoting the *Grow Green* effort and under Dorothy's tenure in Minnesota, involvement in the 4-H Club program has increased by 22 %. Her enthusiasm and passion for educating our young people and promoting positive youth development is the cornerstone of her professional career.

❖ Administrative Leadership

Tamie Bremseth has the ability to see the possibilities, explore the options and make things happen. She is an effective communicator, crafting messages to fit the audience for clearer understanding. Tamie has tackled difficult issues that the 4-H program has to deal with like risk management, real estate and financial accounts. She inspires others to be confident and draws on individual talents to make and outcome better for the whole. Tamie is a master of detail and uses this talent to do everything to the highest level of quality.

❖ Friend of Extension

George Thompson is committed to building communities to provide the supports and opportunities to help all young people succeed, and to address prejudice, diversity and access in the changing demographics of our times. This has been the basis for a long relationship with University of Minnesota Extension including serving on Extension's Citizen Advisory Committee and co-sponsoring a multitude of programs and events in the Rochester area and surrounding communities. George, a retired IBMer, served as Executive director of Rochester's Diversity Council for ten years and currently serves as the Chairman of Blandin Foundation's Board of Trustees.

❖ Continued Excellence

Jeanne Markell retired from University of Minnesota Extension in 2007, but has continued providing leadership as the Extension Ralph Tabor Fellow at the National Association of Counties (NACo) in Washington, DC. In this role she has worked to improve relationships between Extension administration and NACo leaders, monitored the farm bill and kept Extension visible through the funding process, and given testimony about the transition of CSREES to the Nat'l Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). Jeanne is committed to honoring the rich history of Extension while always looking for new ways to grow the organization.



❖ Visionary Leadership

Deborah Zak provides the leadership that listens intently to peoples needs and then guides the effort to connect University and Extension resources to make change happen. This is evident in her efforts with the Native American communities in northern Minnesota. Deb's quiet style of leadership has allowed her to connect and earn the respect of community leaders, because they know that she will listen to their needs and concerns and work right along with them. This visionary leadership will provide a template for future work with new audiences.

❖ Retiree Service

Sheila Craig has served as treasurer of Epsilon Sigma Phi Pi Chapter for six years. Little did she know when she accepted the role that it would continue through retirement and into infinity if she hadn't recruited a replacement. She has served the organization well, keeping us financially sound through Extension's reorganization and advising the board in funding decisions. Sheila's commitment to the Extension organization well into her retirement is greatly appreciated.

❖ ESP Retiree's of 2008

Glenice Johnson
Jeanne Markell

❖ Mid-Career Service

Kia Harries has significantly impacted youth, volunteers, partners and colleagues over the past 17 years. She has lead Minnesota's 4-H Shooting Sports/Wildlife program, revitalizing the volunteer project development committee, initiating new roles for local volunteers, and improving the planning and implementation of the statewide leader trainings and 4-H SS/W Invitational. Kia, in her role as interim leader of The Operation Military Kids team, has had great success in supporting youth who are affected by a loved one's deployment. Her work in each of these positions has resulted in written curriculum, state and national presentations, and service on national committees.

❖ Early Career Service

Heidi Haugen is not new to the Extension Service, but she is new to Minnesota. Heidi's career has included time with New York state Extension at Cornell and the Army 4-H Youth Development Program. Heidi's interest in technology has served her well as a team member on 4-H's Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) initiative. She is also involved with the state Volunteer Leadership team that is looking at what it would take to have a comprehensive system of training and support for 4-H volunteers.

**Congratulations
to all of our Award Winners**