



Epsilon Sigma Phi–Pi Chapter Awards 2009

Your Key to Professional Excellence

❖ **Distinguished Service** — **Colleen Gengler** has worked with many aspects of parent and family education for over 30 years, from teaching parents to a current emphasis on training professionals and developing educational materials for families with adolescents and Partnering for School Success. Colleen is a frequent presenter at state and regional conferences. Colleen's leadership on the ESP Silent Auction has helped to maintain the MEWS scholarship funds.

❖ **Administrative Leadership** — **Nancy Hegland** has been instrumental in moving forward the 4-H program's work in human resource development across the entire state. She has worked to streamline the hiring of the hundreds of short-term summer employees, increase the staff development opportunities for summer interns and to secure resources and support for the placement of interns and AmeriCorps Promise Fellows working with diverse audiences.

❖ **Visionary Leadership** — **Liz Templin** embraced the opportunities and provided leadership as the Extension system faced reorganization in 2002. Her work resulted in a new set of deliverables to independent business owners in rural communities. Liz encouraged the use of an outside market researcher to help the team develop a pricing scheme that expanded outreach and program cost recovery. Liz has long been a champion for employees benefits that have resulted in not only creating awareness, but also expanding dental benefits to all staff.

❖ **Mid-Career Service** — **Sara Croymans** is committed to assisting young people learn how to make wise decisions, effectively manage their resources and develop critical life skills in financial literacy. Her work with the Extension Youth & Money team has resulted in trainings and conference presentations with hundreds of high schools teachers and agency staff. Sara has also contributed to the MN 4-H Consumer Decision Making program which provides opportunities for youth to learn, practice, and evaluate the cross-cutting life skill of decision-making.

❖ **Early Career Service**— **Rebecca Harrington** expanded the Clay County 4-H program to afterschool sites with the creation of "summer survivor" lesson materials that have been shared statewide. She has also worked to streamline program management tasks, co-created and implemented a statewide 4-H retention study, and has been involved in an extensive literature search to inform youth development program outcomes. Recently she has been instrumental in generating resources and partners for flood related programming efforts.



❖ **International Service** — **Antonio Alba-Meraz** was a key player in organizing the Mexico Study Tour a nine day study abroad opportunity for Family Development Educators in February 2009. He was also invited by the Mexican Consulate to travel to Mexico City to attend an International Financial Education Conference where participants from the United States, Canada and Mexico shared how they are providing financial literacy education and informing citizens about financial services. Antonio is also team member on the Transnational Mexico Research Project, a joint project of the University of Minnesota and Higher Education in Social Anthropology and Research Center in Mexico City.

❖ **Retiree Service**

Joe Fox has continued to provide leadership and support to the Minnesota State Fair, the Great Minnesota Get together, for many years since retiring from Extension. He is currently a member of the Minnesota State Fair Board and was nominated by fellow retiree and state fair supporter, Erven Skaare.

❖ **Visionary Leadership Team Recognition** — **Youth Development Staff Development Team:** When given the challenge to develop a 3-day on-line staff development for 50 staff, this team stepped up to the plate. They developed a virtual conference that provided a variety of delivery methods, options for participation and opportunities to connect and converse with staff. The virtual conference saved staff time, travel and program dollars, while still providing an engaging staff development opportunity. Team members: **Tamie Bremseth, Eric Vogel, Janet Beyer, Jennifer Skuza, Pamela Larson-Nippolt, Marika Pfefferkorn, and Todd Mehrkens.**

❖ **Diversity/Multicultural Recognition** — Family Relations' *"Partnering for School Success"* provides busy parents with practical ideas that support school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting as well as to forge better working relationships between parents and schools. This effort is a collaborative effort of U of Minnesota Extension and U of M Children, Youth & Family Consortium with funding from the McKnight Foundation to develop cultural adaptations for Latino, African American, Hmong and Somali populations. Extension team members: **Kathy Olson, Colleen Gengler, Jo Musich, Patricia Stolpa and Mary Marczak.**

❖ **ESP Retiree's of 2009**

- Roselyn Biermeier
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