



Epsilon Sigma Phi - Pi Chapter Awards 2010

Your Key to Professional Excellence

❖ **Distinguished Service — Shirley Anderson-Porisch**

Shirley is in her fourth decade of educating citizens of Minnesota through Extension programming. She began her career as a home economist touching the lives of many citizens in Lyon County. Most recently her work has focused on providing trustworthy education for informed financial decisions through programs like “Dollar Works” and the “Latino Financial Literacy Program.” As Extension employees we have benefitted from Shirley’s leadership as a committee member and officer of her section, MAEE, EFCC, and ESP-Pi Chapter.

❖ **Mid-Career Service -- Holli Arp**

As Regional Director in Worthington, Holly has demonstrated her ability to bring people together, share ideas, and have others take ownership. Recently she has applied this approach to carve out space for Extension in a new facility among bio science industry leaders and to mobilize stakeholders to implement strategies designed to increase giving to local and regional Extension programs. She consistently strives to position Extension in Southwest Minnesota as the front door to the University.

❖ **Early Career Service -- Nathan Winter**

Nathan service as County Extension Educator in Agricultural Production Systems for McLeod and Meeker counties. He joined Extension in 2005 and since nearly the first day has been an active member and contributor to Extension professional organizations and a collaborator with colleagues in local and regional positions. He delivers a range of local programming related to agronomy, particularly forages, horticulture and sustainable agricultural systems.

❖ **Retiree Service -- Suzanne (Sue) Fisher**

Sue has worked in the 4-H Youth Development program in multiple states before returning to Minnesota in her retirement. As a retiree, she continues to be an advocate for Extension through marketing and fund development. She has been a dedicated member of the ESP-Pi Chapter board seeking unique ways to promote and engage retirees in the organizations work.

❖ **Visionary Leadership -- LuAnn Hiniker**

LuAnn is the Campus Regional Director in Rochester and is being recognized for her work in establishing strong linkages between Extension and the administration of the newly established University of Minnesota Rochester campus and for strengthening the relationship with the University of Minnesota Research and Outreach Center in Waseca.



❖ **Meritorious Support Service -- Cynthia Kommers**

Cynthia is the Executive Office & Administrative Assistant in the Dean's office in Coffey Hall and has been part of many changes in Extension over the last ten years serving as the first face that many people see in Coffey Hall. It may be greeting a new Extension staff person, referring a variety of consumer calls, or helping Extension staff figure out the intricacies of the campus and Extension system. Whatever the request, Cynthia gets it done. She is dedicated to finding answers and connecting people.

❖ **ESP Friend of Extension -- LeAnn Buck**

LeAnn Buck has served as the Chairperson of the University of Minnesota Extension Citizens Advisory Committee. For the past decade she has been a consistent advocate of promoting "capacity building" within the MASWCD organization, and has frequently partnered with the Extension Center for Community Vitality to assist her in these efforts. She has helped organize on-going leadership training for her members, special educational events at the MASWCD annual convention, used CV facilitators and presenters at MACSWD state and regional meetings, and frequently cites Extension as one of the sources for her own thinking and growth as a leader in the natural resources sector in Minnesota.

❖ **Continued Excellence Recognition -- Neil Broadwater**

Neil has long been recognized for his commitment to the citizens of Winona County, and more recently for contributions in a broader area as a regional educator for dairy programs. Neil also completely renovated the ESP website which has been an outstanding improvement to the connection to members and officers. Any program in which Neil has been engaged in has benefited from his attention to details and his concern for how the program will affect the community. Neil has been recognized as one who can fairly facilitate contentious issue discussions and develop a consensus resolution. Over the years, Neil's leadership has been utilized and recognized by the Minnesota Association of Extension Agricultural Professionals, the Minnesota Association of Extension Educators, the National Association of County Agricultural Agents and the Pi Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi.

❖ **Diversity/Multicultural Recognition -- Family Relations' "Partnering for School Success" team -- Kathleen Olson, Colleen Gengler, Joanne Musich**

Although recognized at last year's ESP/MAEE Awards Banquet, we want to acknowledge that this team has been selected to receive the 2010 ESP North Central Region Diversity/Multicultural recognition at the National Epsilon Sigma Phi Conference in Jackson, Wyoming in October. In the creation of this program, Extension educators in Family Development along with a research/evaluation specialist cultural guides, and the University of Minnesota, Youth and Family Consortium with funding from the McKnight Foundation came together to address Minnesota's need to improve graduation rates particularly for students of color.



❖ **25 years of service -- Charles Schwartau**

This award is given to recognize employees for their dedication to the mission of Extension.

❖ **MAEE & ESP Teamwork Award -- MN Master Naturalist Program Team**

Team members include: Amy Rager – EE, Rob Blair- Extension Specialist, Andrea Lorek-Strauss – EE, Nate Meyer – Extension Program Leader, Karen Oberhauser – Extension Specialist, Peggy Guiney – U of MN Graduate Student, Dawn Flinn – Education Coordinator, MN Dept. of Natural Resources, Martin Main – Professor & Program Leader, Florida Master Naturalist Program, U of Florida, Lynnette Lothert – Support Staff, U of MN Extension, Julie Larson – Support Staff, U of MN Extension. This team also includes 130 instructors from 40 agencies and organizations, ranging from city, county, state, and federal government, to local nature centers, zoos and aquaria, colleges and universities and non-profit organizations.

Over the past 5 years, the MN Master Naturalist team has collaborated to develop, implement and evaluate a high quality, financially sustainable program that trains MN environmental educators to deliver 40-hour courses on MN Natural History to adult audiences who then promote awareness, understanding and stewardship of Minnesota’s natural environment through conservation volunteer service. The program motto is ---Explore. Teach. Conserve.

One letter of support states, “these instructors have conducted 32 classes which resulted in more than 66,000 hours of service valued at more than \$1million dollars in economic value to the state. Today there are over 500 active volunteers who continue to conduct volunteer service every day. The Master Naturalist volunteers are doing work that wouldn’t otherwise get done”. “They are making a difference in Minnesota”. Congratulations to the MN Master Naturalist Program team!

❖ **ESP Retiree’s of 2010 --**

**Carol Ann Burtness
Kay Stanek
Jerry Wright.**