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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

by James Grieshop, Ph.D.

A Trek Underway: The 4-H "Staffing Plan" Plan

In late 2005 a proposal for a revised 4-H Staffing Plan was unveiled. Although the goal was to rapidly implement provisions of that Plan, its activation was delayed until this year. Now, in the Summer, 2007 the plan is about to take off down the road, leading to a pilot plan that will feature the direct involvement of three Advisors (one for each of the three Agriculture and Natural Resources regions), the Statewide 4-H Program and the UC Davis-based 4-H Center for Youth Development.

This staffing plan will be carried out over the next three years with the purpose of testing a revised staffing arrangement, along with the goals to carry out implementation research and evaluation efforts that contribute to enhanced 4-H/Youth Development programming, professional staff development, and volunteer development. Jane Chin Young from Marin County and the North Coast and Mountain Region, Marianne Bird from Sacramento County and the Central Valley Region, and Steve Dasher from San Diego County and the Central Coast and Southern Region are the experienced Advisors who now are the new Academic Coordinators who will manage and oversee the implementation efforts. The clusters for each region are different: Jane's cluster of counties includes the whole North Coast and Mountain Region. Marianne's cluster

consists of San Joaquin, Sacramento, Yolo, and Solano Counties in the Central Valley Region. In the Central Coast and Southern Region, Steve's cluster includes San Diego, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. Each cluster is unique and provides many interesting possibilities for exploring and testing the consequences of a new staffing arrangement.

Both the 4-H Center for Youth Development and the Statewide 4-H Program are now working with the Advisors/Academic Coordinators and Regional Directors to assist in the planning and support of the steps to be taken over the next three years. In particular the 4-H CYD has taken on the work to collaborate with the regional clusters and coordinators to think through the implementation steps and the processes for evaluating those steps.

The journey for us all over the next years will be challenging and demanding but rewarding and instructive. At the moment we are all getting on the same road. The real drivers for this effort are the Advisors/Academic Coordinators, and one of the 4-H CYD's roles is to work to help map out the route, to regularly and consistently determine where we are going, and to help ensure we get good mileage, avoid the pot holes, and that we remember to view the scenery. It will be a good trip!

CYD On the Road

Katherine Heck presented at the California Association of Safety Educators Conference, April 21, 2007: *Teenage driving in California: Survey of high school seniors.*

Katherine Heck presented at the Yolo County Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Board meeting, April 23, 2007: *Teenage driving in Yolo County: Survey of high school seniors.*

Nicki King presented as part of a panel presentation on Career Development at AERA 2007 in Chicago, IL, on 4/12/07. The title of the presentation was: "Contextual Influences on Career Development of Low-Income African American Youth: Considering an Ecological Approach."

Coming Up

Nicki King, CAES Specialist will have an article in an upcoming issue of the *National Association of Secondary School Principals Journal*. Here is an abstract from the article:

In theory, the pressure to meet the demands of NCLB and close the gap on high school exit exams performance could lead to more effective schooling and increased graduation for racial and ethnic minorities. In practice, it is clear that Black and Latino students as well as English language learners and low-income students of every race are more likely to leave high school without a diploma. One factor is that the more times students take and fail the test, the less optimistic they become about their future and the less likely it becomes that they will graduate. Understanding and implementing the practices of culturally competent schools is one way to enhance students' ability to learn and teachers' ability to teach and prepare all students to succeed in the global community they will enter when they leave school.

King, N. J. (in press). **The Most Important Test.** *The National Association of Secondary School Principals Journal.*

Upcoming Conference →

SRA 12th Biennial Meeting to be held at the Hilton Chicago Hotel, March 6-9, 2008.

SRA 2008 Call for Submissions Website Opens: Monday, June 4, 2007.

Submission Deadlines:

Posters – Friday, August 17, 2007

All other formats – Friday, August 24, 2007

www.s-r-a.org/submissions2008

4-H Center for Youth Development

"The 4-H Center for Youth Development fosters collaborations in research and evaluation among UC Cooperative Extension professionals and UC campus-based scientists that deepen our understanding of youth development in the contexts of family and community."

Hours:

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
3325 Hart Hall (Third Floor)
Department of Human and
Community Development
<http://fourhcyd.ucdavis.edu>

Director

James Grieshop, Ph.D.
Community Education Development Specialist
(530) 752-3008

Associate Director

Richard C. Ponzio, Ph.D.
Science & Technology Specialist
(530) 752-8824

Specialists

Nicki King, Ph.D.
CAES Youth and Family Development
(530) 752-3863

Lenna L. Ontai, Ph.D.

Child and Family Development
(530) 752-6410

Research Associates

Ramona Carlos, M.S.
Academic Coordinator
(530) 754-8435

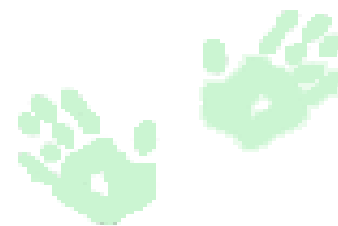
Katherine E. Heck, MPH
Specialist in AES
(530) 754-8755

Aarti Subramaniam, M.A.
Post-Doctoral Researcher
(530) 752-3006

Stacy Shwartz Olagundoye
Graduate Student Research Assistant
(530) 754-8856

Administration

Carrie Matthews
CYD Assistant/Production Coordinator
(530) 754-8433



Project Updates and General Information

Youth in Governance and Youth-Adult Partnerships in 4-H

by Stacy Shwartz Olagundoye

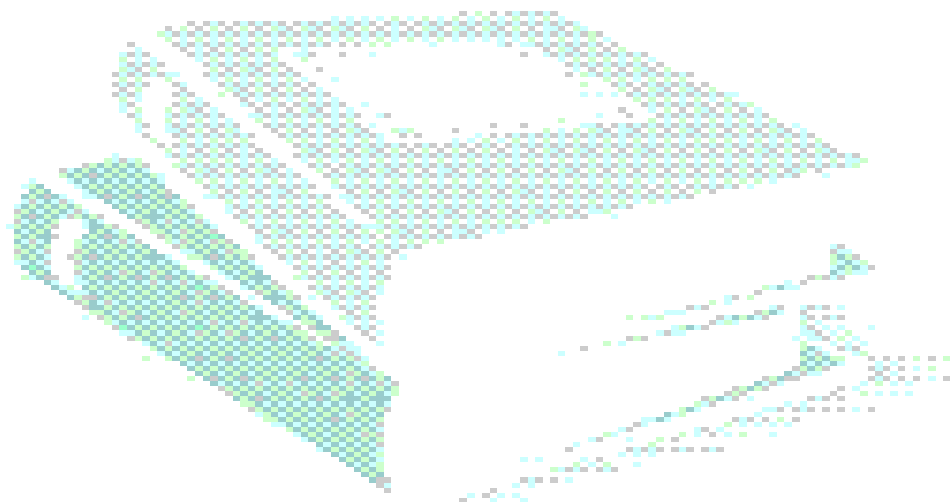
Since March, the Youth in Governance workgroup has met monthly to conduct qualitative data analysis on youth and adult focus group interviews pertaining to 4-H programs throughout the state that were nominated for their successful models of youth in governance and youth-adult partnerships. Youth in governance is the authentic and meaningful engagement of young people in programs, organizations,

and communities, where they have or share voices, influence, and decision-making authority. Youth-adult partnerships take place when youth and adults plan, learn, and work together, with both groups sharing equally in the decision-making process. CYD staff continue to support the Youth in Governance workgroup in their on-going research and dissemination, including their

poster presentation on youth in governance at the HR Conference at UC Davis on June 4-6. Next steps for the workgroup include continued meetings throughout the Summer and Fall to reflect upon the latest data analysis findings, collapse data findings from all stages of research into publication themes, and report on findings.

Presentation Proposals

The CYD is requesting presentation proposals involving youth development issues for the 4-H Center for Youth Development's "Youth and Culture" Seminar Series, Spring 2008. We would like to pair research and extension projects on each topic. Youth Development Advisors who would like to present on a particular subject for the seminar are asked to contact Nicki King (njking@ucdavis.edu), Ramona Carlos (rmcarlos@ucdavis.edu), or Aarti Subramanian (asubramaniam@ucdavis.edu).



update

- James Grieshop, Ph.D., Director
- Richard Ponzio, Ph.D., Associate Director
- Ramona Carlos, Editor
- Carrie Matthews, Publications Coordinator

4-H Center for Youth Development
Dept. of Human and Community Development
University of California
One Shields Avenue/3325 Hart Hall
Davis, CA 95616-8523

Phone (530) 754-8433
Fax (530) 754-8440
<http://fourhcyd.ucdavis.edu>

