

Biographical Statement

In April 2017, I became the OSU Extension Educator II, 4-H Youth Development in Guernsey County following my prior service dating back to November 2013 as the OSU Extension Educator II, 4-H Youth Development in Muskingum County. My specializations have included Quality Assurance, and Volunteer and Community Club Development. I hold a Bachelor of Science degree (*Cum Laude*) in Agricultural Education and a Master of Science in Extension Education, both from The Ohio State University.

My current stewardship roles include: Resource Management and Planning Steward – Hiring Process and Fiscal; Government Relations – Commissioner Relations & Budget Development Proposal. In addition, I previously served for two years as the Community Needs Assessment Steward. I also serve as the PCard Manager for our county.

Guernsey County is located in rural southeastern Ohio and with a total population of 38,438. Of the population 22.2% are under 18 years, 93.39% are white, 4.07% are two or more races, and 1.39% black or African American (according to 2020 US Decennial Census). There are three K-12 public school districts and one K-8 private school located in the county. According to the 2020-2021 ES237, Guernsey County served 524 youth members of 32 community clubs, with the assistance of 148 approved adult volunteers, and 31 youth volunteers. We served an additional 665 youth through school enrichment programs, after school programs and special interest programs. Due to COVID restrictions and guidelines, youth programming numbers decreased in program years 2020 and 2021.

Major Accomplishments: Extension Programming, Teaching and Creative and Scholarly Works – Areas of Focus

Volunteer Development and Community Club Development (40%)

To provide consistent and continuing education to my 4-H volunteers, I instituted a Mandatory Volunteer Training requirement for all returning volunteer in 2015 in Muskingum County with 251 returning volunteers participating. This training requirement was instituted in Guernsey County in 2018 with 171 returning volunteers participating. Some of the education lessons included learning about new 4-H & Junior Fair policies and procedures; preparing members for success at still project evaluation, state fair, & livestock skillathon; opportunities for Cloverbuds; basics of the shooting sports program; and completing their OSU Policy 1.50 annual training requirement.

4-H members, volunteers, and parents needed a clear and consistent method to find information related to the 4-H program policies and procedures. In 2015, I created the “Muskingum County 4-H Member & Volunteer Handbook.” Over 900 copies were distributed to each family of the over 1,750 4-H members. In 2018, I created the “Guernsey County 4-H Member & Volunteer Handbook” with over 500 copies distributed to each of the over 750 members’ families. The 52-

page booklet included the basics of 4-H; general 4-H rules for the county; state guidelines for finance, fundraising, and food service; still project judging requirements, livestock skillathon guidelines, livestock requirement summary for fair exhibition, 4-H youth opportunities, and the county 4-H calendar.

Efforts to refocus the objective of our 4-H Kick Off event resulted in a new format with 230 participants in its first year, 2018. The new open house format focuses on member recruitment and includes a project fair from the previous year's top project participants in each project area; a project book fair with all 4-H publications available for viewing; Cloverbud corner with hands-on activities; and teen leaders with displays on older youth opportunities.

Based on current needs locally and local successes, the following presentations were shared with volunteers across the state at the Ohio 4-H Conference: co-presented "Funding Outside the 4-H Box" in 2016; co-presented "Tips for Tackling the Perfect Club Meeting" in 2018; co-presented "Maximize Your 4-H Program by Focusing Your Resources" in 2019; and co-presented two sessions in 2021, "Making the Best of a Virtual Cloverbud Meeting" and "Boosting 4-H Club Membership."

Funding can be challenging in Extension and sharing ideas with other 4-H professionals to share with their volunteers can be helpful. Co-presented "Buckeye's Buck\$: Ohio's Innovative Local Fundraising Options" presented at the NAE4-HA Conference in New Orleans, 2016.

Provided easy and timely lessons to Cloverbud volunteers from around the country through the Ohio 4-H Cloverbud Connections Blog. I wrote my first article in 2016 and then wrote five additional articles from 2019-2021.

Teen Leadership and Youth Development (30%)

In 2019, a partnership was established under my lead between OSU Extension, Guernsey County Juvenile Court, and the Ohio State Highway Patrol to provide the 4-H CARTEENS program needed for first-time juvenile traffic offenders. After being awarded an Ohio 4-H Foundation grant for \$1,410, I was able to purchase the supplies necessary to start the program. After a delayed start due to COVID, the first CARTEENS program in approximately 30 years was held in Guernsey County. Fifteen juveniles and their parent/guardian participated in the first three programs.

As an extension of a current literacy recruitment program, I established the "Reading and Still Making the Best Better" program in 2021. Each of the nearly 250 third grade students in Guernsey County received a free copy of *Charlotte's Web* to take home along with information about joining 4-H and an invitation to 4-H Kick Off. Teachers were provided with suggestions on how to incorporate the book into daily lessons related to state education standards.

Based on current needs the following sessions were shared to teens at the Ohio Fair Managers Association Conference - Junior Fair Day: presented "Make Your Fair More than Just Livestock Shows in 2015; co-presented "Making Decisions on Junior Fair Board" in 2016; and co-facilitated "COVID Changes – Idea Sharing" in 2021.

Due to COVID restrictions in 2021, I created a recruitment video using pieces of member project judging videos from 2020 and shared as part of a virtual 4-H Kick Off. I also created a video of two 4-H staff and two 4-H teens reading books for a virtual version of our “Reading Makes the Best Better Program” shared with over 350 Kindergarten and first grade students.

Service and Awards

I was chosen to serve as a member of the Ohio 4-H Internal Advisory Committee for State 4-H Leader, Kirk Bloir, and Associate State Leader, Hannah Epley.

I serve as a member of the Eastern Ohio Extension Camps Board of Directors serving as Vice-President from 2019-2020 and Secretary for 2021. As a member of the Personnel Committee, I assist in updating the personnel budget, personnel job descriptions, hiring of camp staff, and conducting staff evaluations.

I serve as a member of the Volunteerism and Community Club Design Team where I served as a reviewer of the online New Ohio 4-H Volunteer Application and created instructions for 4-H Professionals to update the volunteer application survey template to meet their needs locally. I served as a co-presenter for our design team on the December 2020 Hot Topics to present the new materials and processes. I volunteered to serve on the 4-H Online 2.0 Super Users Sub-Committee to assist Extension professionals with the transition from 4-H Online 1.0 to 2.0.

I served as a member of the Ohio 4-H Strike Force Team which worked to organize all statewide 4-H documents moved to Microsoft Teams from BuckeyeBox.

I have been on the State Ohio 4-H Achievement Committee and assisted in selecting winners of certain Ohio 4-H Achievement Awards.

I served as a member of the 2018 NAE4-HA National Conference Planning Committee and member of the Seminars on Wheels Sub-Committee where I organized the trip to the 2018 Fairfield County Fair for a large group of 4-H professionals from around the country. I served as a peer-reviewer for NAE4-HYDP conference proposals in 2021 and will again in 2022.

I was awarded the NAE4-HA Achievement in Service award in 2013.

Plans for the Future

The focus of the traditional 4-H program in the future focuses on volunteer development, both adult and youth; additional competency-based training for adult volunteers, recruitment, and leadership development of teen volunteers for the new CARTEENS program and camp counselor program; and explore multi-county training opportunities. In addition, I will continue to focus on strengthening our community clubs while focusing on non-traditional programming by working to build partnerships with local teachers and administrators to offer more 4-H in-school programming opportunities. I also plan to become more active by submitting for awards and applying for presentations at both the state and national levels.