For those that attended our conference in Decatur this past August this will be somewhat redundant. For those that did not, I thought I would take this opportunity to share what I spoke about during the conference. Again, my hats off to you guys on a great conference! My challenge speech was centered on a quote that I feel says a lot and one that can help us do what we already do better.

As agents we are advisors, mentors, educators and more importantly role models for young people. We are a big

President’s Address

Brandon Gregson
Brazos Co.
CEA—4-H & YD

Last year I can remember wondering what the 4-H program as a whole would look like at the start of the new 4-H year. Will the new changes in the program hit like a sack of bricks or will we roll right through. Thus far I can’t complain. The year seems like the others. Outside the Aggie spirit in my town seems to be building both with the flags flying on game days and also the ever growing traffic jam of students headed to classes or other establishments related to college life.

In the office enrollment seems to be going well, the new screening process not to difficult and all of our families seem excited about the new ideas and programs coming down the pike. I hear similar comments from our counterparts around the state. Overall Texas 4-H seems to be off a running and in full swing… check!

2009 Conference an Extreme Success!

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District 3 T A E 4 - H A would like to thank the 110 Extension professionals and guests who took a walk on the wild side with us at the 2009 TAE4-HA State Conference held in Decatur. Special thanks go out to the agents, specialists, and friends of our program who provided educational sessions to go along with our “Extreme 4-H” theme.

Conference attendees participated in a number of workshops, ranging from ATV safety (for those four wheeler rodeos!), GPS and Geocaching technology, the Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program, and food challenge. Sessions were also provided on the dog project, Leaders 4 Life, team building, FCS 101 and managing 4-H livestock and horse projects.

The thrill seekers of the bunch visited the big cats at the International Exotic Animal Sanctuary, and for the wine connoisseurs, a walk through the vines and wine tasting at Brushy Creek Vineyard.

Fish and Rocky Mountain Oysters (Calf fries) were the delicacy of the Wednesday evening meal, and cowboy poetry and a cutting horse demonstration was the entertainment highlight.

Dave Lieber of the Fort Worth Star Telegram shared his wisdom and wit through the stories of a Yankee moving to Texas and the dog of his nightmares.

We hope everyone that attended had a blast, and look forward to next year’s conference!
I am writing this on the day after our first ever one day - 4-H. WOW!!! What a day October 10th turned out to be. Thanks to everyone for their involvement! I am anxiously awaiting the evaluation results so all of us can see the impact of a community service day specifically designed for our youth to give back to the communities and counties that give so much to them.

As we wrap up National 4-H Week, I want each of you to know how much I appreciate everything you do! Your energy, enthusiasm, creativity, and passion are contagious to all. These attributes are seen by our young people, volunteers, parents, and colleagues. Your collective work means more than any of us truly know.

The future is bright! I can not wait to see what 2010 will bring. If 2009 is any indicator, 2010 promises to offer even more opportunities and exciting programs for the youth we serve. Let's continue to all work together to make the best better!

Membership Committee Report
Submitted by Sarah Chudalla, CEA-4-H & YD, McLennan County

Become a member of TAE4-HA and experience its benefits. Simply complete the membership form and return it to your District membership director with the paid dues. Also note that your district might have a district due so be sure to check before you write a check. All membership forms and dues must be received by November 16th to be eligible to apply for awards in 2010.

District 1 Brenda Gladney-Potter County
District 2 Calley Runnels-Swisher County
District 3 Lynette Babcock-Palo Pinto County
District 4 Sara Allen-Hunt County
District 5 Jeanette Milstead-Nacogdoches County
District 6 Kodie Hoover-Midland County
District 7 Lynn Ann Duniven-Nolan County
District 8 Chelsea Farris-Limestone County
District 9 Sheryl Nolan-Harris County
District 10 Richard Parrish-Hays County
District 11 Jennifer Janssen-Jackson County
District 12 Barbie Wymore-Jim Wells County
Non-Participation Remains a Factor
Submitted by Laura Huebinger, Research & Evaluation Committee Chairman &
District 8 4-H Program Specialist

Article written by: Ken Jones, Youth Development Specialist, University of Kentucky

Out-of-school time provides a chance for youth to engage in constructive opportunities
during vulnerable hours. Research has shown that programs and activities during this time
can decrease the likelihood of youth partaking in negative behaviors. However, millions of
children in America are not participating. Although multiple reasons abound for this lack of
involvement, recent research has indicated that limited resources, no access to programs and
lack of interest in organized activities are the main culprits. Child Trends conducted a study
consisting of nearly 43,000 youth between the ages of 6-14; out of the total sample, approxi-
mately 10,000 young people were not involved in any structured out-of-school time. The re-
searchers of the study also noted that several child, family and neighborhood factors play a
part in this dilemma:

Non-participants were almost twice as likely to have a physical disability, which may pre-
vent them from readily participating as their participating peers.
Non-participants were twice as likely to have repeated a grade level as those who were
participants (15 % vs. 7%).
Non-participants were more likely to spend two or more hours watching television or
playing video games (60% vs. 43%).
Non-participants were twice as likely to have parents who were in poor health as com-
pared to the participants (16% vs. 8%); this could pose demands on the child to help
out more at home.
Non-participants were four times more likely to have parents with less than a high school
education (13% vs. 3%).
Non-participants were more likely to live in neighborhoods where residents did not sup-
port one another (low sense of community; 46% vs. 36%).

This information provides insight on those factors that can force limitations on youth po-
tential. It is obvious why the individual deterrents may cause a child to have low participa-
tion. However, situations within the family can also hinder involvement. Parents with less
education, in some cases, may not view education as highly as well-educated parents. This
also correlates to their value of structured out-of-school time. Therefore, they may not see
the need to encourage their child to engage in such opportunities. Additionally, a strong
sense of community among residents often fosters programs that benefit youth and families.
Youth service providers, schools, and individuals must work together in order for young peo-
ple to attain the healthy lifestyles and social and academic competence critical to their devel-

Source:
Bandy, T. & Moore, K.A. (2009). Non-participation of children and adolescents in out-of-

“Positive thinking will let you do everything better than negative thinking will.”
-Zig Zigler
Brandon Dukes, Roberts County Extension Agent worked with his Youth Board to design a program to provide youth with the skills they need to become responsible and productive citizens. To help them understand the importance of career skills and provide them with the knowledge and tools needed to build those skills, participants were involved in five sessions which covered the following topics:

- Employability
- Goal Setting
- Resume Development
- Interview Preparation
- Selecting a College and Degree Program

The program was targeted toward twenty high school juniors and seniors at Miami ISD. A pre and post test evaluation was administered to determine the knowledge students gained through the educational events as well as the skills they developed. There was a 95% response rate on the evaluation.

100% of the program participants were either completely satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the content and presentations during the sessions. Students scored on average 42% on the pretest and 85% on the post test, equating a 102% increase in knowledge gained.

The main purpose of the program was to equip students with the skills necessary to make themselves employable. Students were give a series of questions asking them to rate their readiness and ability to perform certain tasks related to employment. After the completion of the program, there were dramatic increases in these rates:

- 79% increase in students who said they were ready for the workforce
- 100% increase in students confident in their ability to perform well in an interview
- 31% increase in students who knew how to dress appropriately for an interview
- 47% increase in students confident in their resume writing ability
- 131% increase in students who had written goals
- 185% increase in students who’s goals were written using the SMART method
- 62% increase in students who had selected a college and degree program based on their goals and interests

Brandon notes that he utilized many people to implement this program including Dr. Galen Chandler and Mrs. Wendy Scott of Texas AgriLife Extension, as well as numerous Miami ISD administration, faculty and staff. The Roberts County Youth Board was instrumental in developing and evaluating the Youth Career Development Program by selecting topics to be discussed and reviewing information that was to be presented to determine its usefulness.
Behind the Clover
Rhonda Alexander, CEA 4-H & YD, Lubbock County

Where are you from? Where did you go to High School? College?
I grew up in Seminole, Texas, where I also graduated from high school. I graduated from Texas Tech in 1989 with a B.S. in Home Economics Education and a Masters Degree in Agriculture in 2001.

Describe your years in 4-H and or FFA, as a member?
I began my 4-H career in Gaines County as a “PeeWee” 4-H’er, participating through my Freshman year in college. My 4-H projects included: food and nutrition, clothing and textiles, public speaking, swine, horse, rabbits and meat science. Of course my favorite part was attending State 4-H Roundup, which I have done every year since 1983, except for one year during college.

What brought you to Extension? How many years have you been in Extension? Counties you have worked in?
My 4-H involvement is what led me to Extension and the desire to be a county extension agent. I have been employed with Extension for 20 years, working in Swisher, Briscoe, Swisher and Lubbock Counties. Extension has been my only “career,” however during college I worked as a commercial bank teller, at a boat dealership and as a quality control inspector at a sewing factory.

What organizations are you involved with during your down/personal time?
Many of the organizations that 4-H volunteers for in Lubbock County are also among my personal interests. These include: the South Plains Food Bank and Meals on Wheels.

Let’s get personal: Married, for how long or single? Kids? Grandkids? Ages? Their activities, that seem to take up all of your spare time.
I am divorced; however I have three “children” that I refer to as the “girls.” The “girls” consist of three border collies: Beth, LuLu and Coco. Our favorite activity is a walk in the park.

When you go on vacation, where do you like to go? Where were you on your all-time favorite vacation?
I am happy to get away for any vacation time, however my favorites include Ruidoso, New Mexico, or the beach (preferably South Padre Island). However, my future travel plans for next year hopefully include a trip to England.

What are your hobbies?
I have a variety of hobbies that include: crafts, sewing, home renovation projects, gardening and yard work. I also like to collect antiques and enjoy going “junking” to find these treasures.

Describe what your perfect ‘big night out on the town” would be?
For now, I would be happy just to have time for dinner and a movie.

What you like best about your job?
The best part of my job is getting to work with so many different ages, groups and types of people.

“A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove...but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child.”

—Forest E. Wittercraft
part of the world that is constantly shaping their lives. That quote is:

“Treat people as if they were what they ought to be and you help them become what they are capable of.”

Again I want to send out the challenge to try this one out. I mean really read it, think about it and put the words to use. I have found this to work to my benefit in more ways than one. I guess I always thought that this was just part of my nature, but not until I hardwired that quote in the back of my mind did I notice when it was really being putting into practice. It was then that I started seeing results. It is amazing really. The next time you are dealing with a kid that is being a bit rebellious let’s say, or a kid that is so shy you can’t get them to open up and become a part of things.

As a 4-H Practitioner, prescribe this quote to the situation. Now, there is a disclaimer. In my practice I can say there is never a 100 percent guarantee that this prescription will be the fix all for every situation. I can say with great confidence that the majority of the time you will see a change in someone’s life. Not only that kid’s but yours too. For the child that may be rebellious, when they are treated like a respectable young leader they will begin to think of themselves differently. Internally the rebellion or mischievous behavior will become nonsense to them.

For the silent stand offish kid, when they are treated like they have a purpose and like they have a noticeable role. That child begins to look at themselves differently too. It motivates them and creates excitement within. Excitement not only in the activity at hand, but more importantly excitement in them selves and in what people think they are capable of.

For kids self perception is a BIG DEAL. It is for adults too for that matter. I know it is for me. I tend to be my biggest critic. We can help to create those positive perceptions that really make one come out of their shell or simply flip that switch that brings out what one is capable of.

What does a quote like that do for you, reflect back to my comments about shaping young peoples lives. It will do wonders for you personally. It will generate more purpose for you, more enthusiasm for you, more awareness and more importantly a deeper appreciation for what you are capable of.

“Treat people as if they were what they ought to be and you help them become what they are capable of.”

That quote can be many things: a tool for youth development, a tool for volunteer development and on an even grander scale a tool for how one interacts with those in their life in general. Take it or leave it guys, but it works.

Finally, as we take on the months ahead, stay driven, enthusiastic, motivated and proud of what you do, who you are and as previously stated proud of what you are capable of!

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2010 TAE4-HA Annual Conference
August 4-6, 2010 ★ Odessa, Texas

Odessa is a vibrant, energetic city in West Texas where the sky, literally, is the only limit. It is a dynamic city that boasts fresh air, awe-inspiring sunsets and the friendliest people you'll ever find. A visit to Odessa can put you in the audience of a Shakespearean play at the Globe Theatre, in the cockpit of a World War II fighter, or in the United States’ premier museum dedicated to the Presidency. The 2010 Annual Conference is sure to be a great professional development event!
Behind the Clover
Rebekah Cathey, CEA 4-H & YD, Dallam & Hartley County

Where are you from? Where did you go to High School? College?
Fredericksburg, Texas.
Fredericksburg High School
Sam Houston State University

Describe your years in 4-H and or FFA, as a member?
I spent majority of my time while growing up in 4-H & FFA. I was actively involved in 4-H for 10 years and FFA for 4. I grew up in the show ring with hogs, poultry, and steers. Later in my 4-H career and in FFA I became involved in numerous leadership positions, judging teams, public speaking, camps and parliamentary procedure.

What brought you to Extension? How many years have you been in Extension? Counties you have worked in? Have you have other jobs/careers?
I came from a strong program in Gillespie County with an excellent County Extension Agent, Bill Botard. His passion, dedication, and excitement about the 4-H program brought me in as a member and back years later as a County Extension Agent.
I started in Extension January 20th, 2009, in Dallam & Hartley Counties. I began in Extension 6 months after graduation.

What organizations are you involved with during your down/personal time?
After just moving to a new town, and just starting in Extension the only organization I have time for is 4-H!

Let’s get personal: Married, for how long or single? Kids? Grandkids? Ages? Their activities, that seem to take up all of your spare time.
Married for 1 year on November 8. My husband Dustin, works for Child Protective Services as a Family Based Investigator.

When you go on vacation, where do you like to go? Where were you on your all-time favorite vacation?
Vacation anywhere is great whether it’s the mountains or the beach. My all time favorite would have to be our honeymoon in beautiful Playa Del Carmen, Mexico. I’m really looking forward to our upcoming trip to Hawaii in December.

What are your hobbies?
My hobbies include spending time with my husband and two Siberian Huskies, Jude and Jade, visiting family, traveling, decorating (which would include shopping), and remodeling our 1920’s home in historic Dalhart completely by ourselves.

Describe what your perfect “big night out on the town” would be?
Living in a town that the sidewalks roll up at 5pm “big nights out on the town” do not exist. My perfect “big night” consists of grilling in the backyard with friends and neighbors. I’m all about the food and company!

What you like best about your job?
People! I love working with families and watching them grow.
Parker County currently has a number of youth serving probation with the juvenile justice system. In an effort to decrease the number of repeat offenders, it is important to provide these youth with a character education program to lessen the number of illegal and unethical activities the youth would take part in.

Kayla Neill, Parker County Extension Agent, took this problem into consideration when she created the Character Education program in 2008. The program was directed to ninth through twelfth graders serving probation with the Parker County Juvenile Justice System.

Kayla, with support from the Parker County Youth Board and the Parker County Juvenile Probation office, created a program using curriculum from Character Counts and Texans Building Character. Her goal was to increase the attitude towards a person’s character and familiarize participants with the Six Pillars of Character and team building activities. Sessions included:

- **Introduction to the Six Pillars of Character**
  - Name that character trait

- **Trustworthiness**
  - Character in the media and the trust walk

- **Respect**
  - Ice Cream Gourmet—Everyone is Different

- **Responsibility and Fairness**
  - Responsibility: Your Own Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point Plan
  - Fairness: Fairness Do’s and Don’ts List, Tower Building and Maze Craze

- **Caring and Citizenship**
  - Martin Luther King, Jr. “I Have a Dream”
  - Thank You Letters

In order to determine the results of the Character Education program, a pre & post test evaluation instrument from the Character Counts curriculum was administered to participants. There was a 100% response rate on the evaluation which showed the following results:

- 11 of 14 (76%) were completely satisfied or mostly satisfied with the program and educational sessions.
- Of the 12 attitude statements ranked on a Likert Scale, 7 reflected positive changes in attitude.
- There was an overall positive change in attitude towards a person’s character.

It is important that you recognize your progress and take pride in your accomplishments. Share your achievements with others. Brag a little. The recognition and support of those around you is nurturing.”

A note from Rusty and Sarah: We will get award packets out as soon as we have revisions from National!
Behind the Clover
Kayla Neill, CEA 4-H & YD, Parker County

Where are you from? Where did you go to High School? College?
I’m from Sweetwater, Texas. Home of the world’s largest rattlesnake roundup. Went to High School at Sweetwater High School. And, went to college at...where else? Texas A&M University.

Describe your years in 4-H and or FFA, as a member?
I was a Nolan Co. 4-Her for 10 years and participated in the horse project. My senior year I was awarded the Gold Star, and during my freshman year of college, I was awarded the Nolan County Friend of 4-H for my continued work with the 4-H’ers in the horse project. I was also a member of Sweetwater FFA for two years where I judged poultry.

What brought you to Extension? How many years have you been in Extension? Counties you have worked in? Have you have other jobs/careers?
Dr. Chris Boleman and Dr. Scott Cummings jointly taught an ADEV class that discussed Extension and its methodology. This class opened my eyes to the possibility of a career in extension. Once I was accepted to grad school my mind was made up. Funny enough, Dr. Boleman was my graduate committee chair.

What organizations are you involved with during your down/personal time?
We have down time? At this time I’m really not involved in any organizations outside of my work. I am a member of the American Quarter Horse Assoc. but have not shown in about 4 years (I don’t have a horse, nor the place to keep one).

Let’s get personal: Married, for how long or single? Kids? Grandkids? Ages?
Engaged (three years). He lives in New Braunfels, I live in Weatherford. No kids. 2 Dogs and 1 cat.

When you go on vacation, where do you like to go? Where were you on your all-time favorite vacation?
I do have a passion for travel. I have been to Italy twice and have visited a number of countries in the Western Caribbean. My mom and I have a great addiction to cruising and since I scuba dive it’s a great way for me to get in some good diving.

What are your hobbies?
I love reading a good thriller, gardening, cooking, scuba diving and watching movies.

Describe what your perfect ‘big night out on the town” would be?
Staying in with my fiancé, preparing our own dinner and watching a good movie.

What you like best about your job?
The variety.

PR&I Committee Report

We just wanted to send a big thank you out to all the Districts for donating items to the Silent Auction at the TAE4-HA Conference in Decatur and thanks to all those who bid on the items. It was a huge success. We made $1624, which will go towards our scholarship fund. Remember, next year we will see which District items bring in the most money. Start thinking of a great Silent Auction Item!

Do you want to stand out from your volunteers? The Public Relations and Information Committee is again selling the 4-H Polo Shirts, Button Down Shirts and Wind Jackets. These items are available only to Texas AgriLife Employees and Office Staff. Order forms can be found at http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/tae4ha/forms.htm.

We are always looking for new committee members. If you are interested in spreading the word about TAE4-HA, please contact Kayla Kaspar, Committee Chair at 979-968-5831 or kmkrebs@ag.tamu.edu. We will be hosting a break and social during Extension Foundations (New Employee Orientation) in College Station.
Life Skills, Citizenship, and Leadership for the people who are learning across America.

4-H is a community.