

# National 4-H Hall of Fame 2015

## California



**Sharon Junge**  
Acting State 4-H Director

Home: Auburn, CA

Nominated by: California 4-H

### Major 4-H Accomplishments:

Served nearly 40 years as a 4-H Youth Development Advisor, County Director, Healthy Families & Communities Statewide Initiatives Leader, and Acting Statewide 4-H Director for the University of California. An early pioneer in afterschool programming, nonformal science education and establishment of 4-H Thrive.

**Honors:** University of California's ANR Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Extension (first advisor to receive this recognition); USDA 4-H Youth Development Programs of Excellence, 4-H Afterschool Child Care Program; NAE4-HA Meritorious Service, Distinguish Service and 25 Year Awards; NEAFCS Distinguished Service, Continued Excellence, and National Communication Awards.

### Biography:

For nearly 40 years, Sharon Junge served as 4-H Youth Development Advisor, County Director, Healthy Families & Communities Statewide Initiatives Leader, and Acting State 4-H Director. Sharon developed possibly the first 4-H Afterschool Programs run by 4-H and Cooperative Extension in the nation, and the largest California 4-H effort to reach more Latino youth. This expertise led to her national work on several projects, including director of one the 4-H Afterschool Centers for Action (1991-95), and a member of the National Extension Network for Child Care Board (1995-99), USDA Extension CARES Steering Committee (1999-2003), the National School-Age Editorial Board (2001-02), and the National 4-H Afterschool Leadership Team.

Sharon served as Co-PI for the multi-year Youth Experiences in Science (YES) project funded by NSF. She's written extensively on these projects, and her curricula and evaluation findings are cited in many other works on afterschool and science programming. As State 4-H Program Director, she continued her efforts in afterschool and science education and successfully launched California's Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) and Healthy Living Initiatives. She also secured a \$1.2 million gift to strengthen the 4-H club program by integrating of cutting edge research on positive youth development and positive mindset - 4-H Thrive. Sharon's state and national efforts will continue to reap benefits for years to come.

### Quote:

Our family has always held to the belief that if you don't do a good job raising your children, nothing else you do matters. As a nation, I feel, we should hold our children and youth in the highest regard... nurturing them to reach their greatest potential. And I believe the 4-H Program provides that important groundwork for our youth, families and communities to thrive and create a better tomorrow.



Youth participating in 4-H Afterschool summer program established by Sharon in Nevada County.



Sharon visiting with a family at a Family Science Night, part of the 4-H Youth Experiences in Science (YES) Project funded by the National Science Foundation.



Opening event at the California 4-H SET Rollout Conference.