

# National 4-H Hall of Fame 2018 California



## Richard L. Mahacek

County Director, 4-H Youth Development Advisor, 4-H Volunteer

Home: Merced, CA      Email: rlmahacek@ucanr.edu      Nominated by:  
California 4-H

### Major 4-H Accomplishments:

Over 60 years of involvement in California 4-H, starting as the little brother, ten-year member, volunteer, and 37+ year career as a 4-H Advisor (Agent). As a member, earned 4-H All Star, State Winner, and served on youth steering committee for Cal Expo. A founding member of the California 4-H Association and served as president, secretary, and treasurer.

Honors: Received computer applications awards and DSA Awards from NAE4HA. Bell Ringer Award, California Women for Agriculture Merced Chapter. Ag Education Award, County Chamber Agri-Business Committee. Hands-on-Hero Award, Merced County First 5 Coalition. Heacox Pioneer History Award, Merced County Historical Society.

### Biography:

Richard participated in electrical, woodworking, and safety projects as a 4-H member, leading to an interest and focus in technology education. He served for 12 years as statewide 4-H contact for Mechanical Science/Engineering projects. His work has included development of curriculum and activities in science processes, robotics, computers, GIS/GPS, bio-security, and environmental issues such as watersheds and wildlife habitats. He served on many 4-H projects and reviews statewide and nationally. Richard was member of development and leadership team of the 4-H SERIES curriculum, an NSF/Kellogg funded science program disseminated nationally through 4-H, and Western Regional Director coordinating the trainings in the 13 western states.

Richard served on 4-H and NASA Explorers Institute to design collaborative 4-H programs. He was Board member of the Challenger Learning Center of the San Joaquin Valley. He served on the National 4-H SET Leadership Team to develop a national plan and professional development for 4-H Science, Engineering and Technology. He was Co-PI for the National 4-H Robotics Curriculum Development Project, lead author of the 4-H Junk Drawer Robotics, and provided many workshops on science processes, inquiry, and experiential learning. Richard has partnered with other groups, including the California Girls Collaborative, Challenger Learning Centers, Merced Co. Office of Education, 4-H/Military Kids program and state-supported afterschool programs.

### Quote:

It has been a privilege to be involved with 4-H for over 60 years as a member, volunteer leader, and 4-H professional. The goal of the 4-H program is to provide experiences for youth that help them to reach their full potential. I salute all the leaders who have come before me and who will follow. These invaluable individuals provide hands-on learning, so that youth can develop interests, nurture positive relationships, gain confidence in their abilities, practice leadership, and become involved in their communities allowing young people to build the skills needed to be successful citizens of the world.



Richard served as member of the development and leadership team of 4-H SERIES



Richard leading a session at State 4-H Leadership Conference using portable Woodworking/Maker Trailer he designed and built for 4-H.



Richard leading a nature hike at 4-H Science and Adventure Camp.