

# National 4-H Hall of Fame 2018

## Delaware



### Mark Manno

Former State 4-H Program Leader  
University of Delaware 4-H & Youth Development

Home: Newark, DE

Nominated by: Delaware 4-H

#### Major 4-H Accomplishments:

40-year career in Cooperative Extension: County Agent – 26 years in Virginia (2 yrs.), Maryland (3 yrs.) and Delaware (21 yrs.). 4-H programs included community clubs, afterschool clubs, school enrichment, day and overnight camps, Embryology Science and Ag in the Classroom. State Specialist for 9 years and State 4-H Program Leader for 5 years in Delaware. Responsible for writing grants securing over \$10 Million. Honors: National Association of Extension 4-H Agents (NAE4-HA) past board member, recipient of the Distinguished, Meritorious and 25-year national awards. Member of Epsilon Sigma Phi. Recipient of the University of Delaware Ratledge Award for Community Engagement.

#### Biography:

Mark Manno's 40-year career in Cooperative Extension included 26 years as a County Agent in Virginia (2 yrs.), Maryland (3 yrs.) and Delaware (21 yrs.). He then served as County Director (12 yrs.), State Specialist (9 yrs.) and State Program Leader (5 yrs.) in Delaware. He reached 15,000-20,000 youth annually in a variety of settings that included community clubs, afterschool clubs, school enrichment, day and overnight camps, Embryology Science and Ag in the Classroom, and initiated the first 4-H day camps in Delaware. As state specialist, Mark had statewide responsibility for expanding efforts to deliver programs to non-traditional and hard to reach audiences.

Mark was responsible for writing grants to secure extramural funding for 4-H programs, securing over \$10 Million to fund and support afterschool programs, composting education, military programs, USDA CYFAR projects, International Youth Leadership programs, Department of State programs and initiatives of National 4-H Council including Health Rocks, Botvin LifeSkills, ODJJP Mentoring Programs, EYSC, ConAgra and many others. As state leader, he provided administrative oversight of 4-H Program. Mark was an active community member and volunteer on boards and committees for Delaware Public Allies, Friends of the Newark Library, Knights of Columbus, Newark American Little League, PTO, Newark Welfare Committee and others.

#### Quote:

Many Delaware 4-H programs continue today as a result of Mark's initial efforts many years ago, and his ability to develop relationships with many organizations in Delaware and on the national level. Known to be a unique collaborator and innovative thinker in approaching and addressing real community issues, Mark's enthusiasm for his work was infectious. He was known for his story telling abilities, willingly sharing personal life snippets, using good humor to connect with people on a personal level. And as he shared all the time, "it's all about the kids," something Mark truly believed every day of his life.



Recognizing 4-H youth for their state accomplishments was a true passion for Mark.



Providing leadership to the Delaware 4-H program through presentations to 4-H audiences.