

National 4-H Hall of Fame 2017

Florida



Joy Cantrell Jordan
Extension 4-H Youth Development Specialist,
Associate Professor, Emeritus

Home: Gainesville, FL Nominated by: Florida 4-H

Major 4-H Accomplishments:

A ten-year 4-H'er in Monroe Co., MS winning state and national honors in home economics, agronomy and horticulture including National 4-H Citizenship Short Course, National 4-H Congress and the National Junior Horticultural Association. College summer 4-H program assistant and volunteer leader, then became 4-H agent in Yazoo County. Served as 4-H youth educator for 35 years in Mississippi, Pennsylvania and as Florida's curriculum specialist for over 20 years. Honors: NAE4HA Distinguished Service Award, UF Outstanding Specialist, ESP Meritorious Service Award, Agricultural Communicators' National Gold Award, Alto Straughn Professional Excellence Award, and numerous other professional association team awards.

Biography:

Joy Jordan is nationally recognized as a leader in 4-H curriculum development. County programs nationwide have been directly impacted by the excellent materials developed and funded as result of the partnerships and collaborations that she created. Joy engaged in national initiatives including: the 4-H Professional Research and Knowledge Base (1984-87); a 1988 panel to establish a national agenda for research priorities; ES/USDA Taskforce (1988-91) developing the first national curriculum handbook and curriculum development standards; National 4-H Experiential Learning Design team (1993-96) creating the National 4-H curriculum criteria and jurying system; helping establish the NAE4-HA Research and Evaluation Committee and co-chaired the first evaluation pre-conference (2006).

Dr. Jordan conducted hundreds of staff training sessions at county, state, national and international settings, including 4-H 101 used currently in club development in 4-H and with military programs worldwide. She served on the 4-H 101 Military Training Team to teach the 4-H 101 curriculum at all Youth Centers on US military bases and Air Force installations in Europe. Most noteworthy among colleagues, Dr. Jordan is a mentor and supporter of faculty and volunteers. She always put others first, ahead of her career needs – she used her career to serve and develop others. It was not about professorship – it was about mentorship. Countless 4-H staff have benefited by her mentorship. Her assistance has resulted in advanced degrees, jobs, tenure and promotions for the staff/faculty served.

Quote:

Her efforts were always "the team" and never "just her" project. Dr. Jordan leads by action and not words; she freely gives her time to support others. Her passion for 4-H, dedication to mentoring staff, creative implementation of programs and opportunities for youth, volunteers and faculty are valid indicators that she has met her goal in life to "gift to others" the benefits she got as a Mississippi 4-H'er. If Joy had not taken an interest in me early on and supported my work as a county agent I would not be in the position that she previously held, these are by far the biggest shoes I've ever had to fill, and I owe my success to her. - Sarah Thomas Hensley, Florida 4-H Alumni and Extension Educator



Joy presenting her last state and national 4-H horticulture demonstration in 1971 in her official 4-H uniform!



There is nothing more rewarding than encouraging young people to continue learning throughout life and helping them set and attain their goals.



Making learning fun, experiential and memorable, whether with youth or adults, was the goal of curriculum development and staff training with Dr. Jordan.