

# National 4-H Hall of Fame 2015

## NAE4-HA



### Clyde Jackson

Research Associate, 4-H Youth Development

Home: Manassas, VA

Nominated by: NAE4-HA

#### Major 4-H Accomplishments:

Joined Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) and served more than 29 years as 4-H Agent in Fairfax and Prince William Counties. Annually engaged over 12,000 youth and 650 volunteers in 4-H. President of the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents from 2006-2007. Established 4-H clubs on 12 of the 14 Virginia military installations and worked with Virginia's National Guard and Army Reserve. The Virginia OMK program enrolled 1,800 annually. Work with at-risk youth in the CYFAR project reaching 1,567 youth and 80 volunteers.

**Honors:** NAE4-HA Distinguished Service Award, 1990; Meritorious Service Award, 2005.

#### Biography:

Clyde Jackson was a 4-H pioneer. Clyde grew up in 4-H and spoke of the importance that his 4-H experience had in shaping his life. When the Virginia State Extension Service and the Virginia Tech Extension Service integrated in 1966, Clyde was elected as the first president of the Black Virginia 4-H Youth Program, 1967-68. He was also one of seven African American youth leaders to attend the first integrated State 4-H Congress where over 1,200 delegates attended. Clyde competed at State 4-H Congress and went on to National 4-H Congress.

Clyde joined Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) and served more than 29 years as 4-H Agent in Fairfax and Prince William Counties. Annually, Clyde engaged over 12,000 youth and 650 volunteers in 4-H. Clyde served as President of the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents from 2006-2007. After his retirement in 2008, he returned to VCE to continue with his passion. He established 4-H clubs on 12 of the 14 Virginia military installations and worked with Virginia's National Guard and Army Reserve to reach the geographically dispersed military youth. The Virginia OMK program enrolled 1,800 annually under Clyde's leadership.

#### Quote:

Clyde was a positive role model for youth and adults. His talents included making people feel at ease, finding common ground, and forming partnerships. Clyde reminded us to remain flexible and to watch for opportunities to help people grow. He said that if you try to plan everything, you'll miss some great opportunities that just happen to come by.

Clyde is remembered as a pioneer and as a champion for youth from all walks of life. He is also remembered for his gentle leadership style and his ever present smile.

- Cathy M. Sutphin, Virginia 4-H State Program Leader



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## NAE4-HA



### **Erika 'Ricki' Leal**

**Regional 4-H Agent – Associate Department Head  
Rutgers Cooperative Extension**

Home: Wayne, NJ

Nominated by: NAE4-HA

### **Major 4-H Accomplishments:**

Passaic Co. 4-H member 5 years. Program Associate, 1969-78; Passaic/Union Co. 4-H Agent, 1978-89; Regional 4-H Agent, North/Assoc. Dept. Chair, 1989-99. Interim 4-H Department Chair, 1995. NJ 4-H Development Fund Board of Trustees, 1994-99. NJA4-HA President, 1979-81; NAE4-HA President, 1993; Board member, 1984-94.

**Honors:** 4-H Executive Development Institute: 1987-89. JCEP Member: 1992-95, Secretary 1994. RCE Excellence for Extension Faculty, 1998. Newark City Council - YAR After-School Program, 1993. ESP Mid-Career Award, 1989. State Visionary Leadership Award, 1996; NJ State Team Award for 4-H Youth at Risk Programming, 1993. NAE4-HA Distinguished Service Award, 1981.

### **Biography:**

Erica 'Ricki' Leal was raised in New Jersey and was a Passaic Co. 4-H member for 5 years. In 1969 she started with the New Jersey 4-H Youth Development Program as a 40% Program Associate in Passaic Co. In 1978 she was promoted to a 70% County 4-H Agent and became full-time in 1981. At this time she received her Master's Degree from Montclair State College. She also graduated from the National 4-H Executive Development Institute in 1989. During a period of re-organization, she served as Interim 4-H Youth Development Department Chair in 1995. Her final assignment from 1989 until her retirement in 1999 was in the academic rank as Regional Agent – North (11 counties) and Associate Department Chair.

Ricki was active in New Jersey and national 4-H associations, serving as state president in 1979, NAE4-HA regional Policy and Resolutions Committee contact in 1983 and elected North East Regional Director in 1984. In 1992 she was elected NAE4-HA President-Elect, becoming President in 1993. In 1994 she was chosen secretary of the National Joint Council of Extension Professionals. Since 2008 she has been involved with Feed the Homeless. Since 2002 she has volunteered with the Orange/Sullivan County (NY) Community Foundation, serving on the Board of Directors (2002-06), chair of the School District Initiative Committee (2002-06) and a member of the Funds Distribution committee (2002-present).

### **Quote:**

4-H shaped my life and led to a fulfilling career. Working with the Youth at Risk Initiative was especially rewarding; creating the opportunity to bring 4-H into neighborhoods where life was difficult and involvement welcome. The experience was successful due to the support from 4-H people with whom I worked and the many others who guided and taught me throughout my entire career. It has truly been a privilege to be part of the 4-H movement in this country. There is no end to the rewards and benefits of 4-H.



Ricki presents awards to 4-H members.



Ricki presides at NAE4-HA meeting.



Ricki and the 1993-94 NAE4-HA board.