

National 4-H Hall of Fame 2018

North Carolina



Sharon Runion Rowland

Executive Director, NC 4-H Development Fund and
NC Cooperative Extension Foundation

Home: Bakersville, NC Email: sharonrowland@gmail.com
Nominated by: North Carolina 4-H

Major 4-H Accomplishments:

Mitchell 4-Her, 11 years; projects in Leadership, Citizenship, Consumer Science, Foods Nutrition/Preservation. Union 4-H Agent, Curriculum/Awards Specialist, National Network for Health Co-Chair-CYFAR, National 4-H Curriculum Council. Executive Director, NC 4-H Development Fund/Cooperative Extension Foundation; NCAE4-HA Officer; 4-H Volunteer (3 clubs). Honors: Winner in National 4-H Leadership and Consumer Sciences; State 4-H Council Vice President (zoo project netted \$10,000); 4-H Honor Club; National 4-H Congress; National 4-H Conference. NC Bankers' Association "Gordon Allen Award" for Camp Challenge fundraising; NC Order of Long Leaf Pine presented by Gov. Perdue for exemplary service to NC.

Biography:

Sharon Runion Rowland, 11-year Mitchell 4-Her, participated in Leadership, Citizenship, Nutrition/Preservation and Consumer Science. She attended 4-H Congress twice, as a National Leadership and State Consumer Education winner and was a National 4-H Conference delegate. Sharon served as Union 4-H agent with 1500 members, 22 who won National Congress honors. In 1983, Raleigh became her home where she poured her passion into 4-H Curriculum/Awards Programs. She was responsible for developing a new awards system, leading to completion of a \$1 million endowment campaign. As "National Network for Health" Extension's CYFAR Program Co-Chair, Sharon worked with 33 universities and served on the National 4-H Curriculum Committee.

In 1999, Sharon became Executive Director, NC 4-H Development Fund and turned her 4-H passion to lead hundreds of volunteers, helping them friend/fundraise more than \$8 million in permanent endowments. These endowments supported 4-Hers, volunteers and parents, agents, NCAE4-HA and NC4-HVLA programs, and statewide programs. Her board initiated and completed an \$11 million "Campaign for the Clover." Volunteers helped obtain private/public funding for the Eastern 4-H Environmental Education Center and to establish the NC 4-H HLC (Museum), both funded by naming gifts. She friend/fundraised for the NC Cooperative Extension Foundation and helped establish the NC Extension FCS and ECA Foundations. Sharon and her husband established four 4-H endowments.

Quote:

"It only takes a spark to get a fire going" has been my philosophy since 4-H membership. County/state faculty encouraged me; it has been my goal to ignite the fires of current and future 4-H families. My passion has been to coach 4-H'ers to develop life skills in speaking and projects or assume leadership as a newly-elected officer; volunteers to lead peers; and 4-H donors to fund their passions.

Our family has also established 4-H endowments to spark programs. My joy has been to assist families in establishing 4-H legacies while passing the program forward through endowments, named facilities, and funding to ensure that 4-H Youth Development's future is strong.



Presenting Runion and Rowland 4-H Endowments fund Mitchell County scholarships.



2016 ribbon-cutting of new 4-H History and Learning Center. Rowland recognizes the hundreds of donors who made it a reality.



Recognizing the Dean and Martha Colvard 4-H Leadership Endowment that was funded by a generous gift from the Colvards.