

National 4-H Hall of Fame 2018

South Carolina



Romando James
Professor Emeritus, Clemson University

Hometown: Bradenton, FL Email: operationpride@yahoo.com
Nominated by: South Carolina 4-H

Major 4-H Accomplishments:

Over 30 years spent with 4-H in New Jersey and South Carolina. Both traditional and non-traditional participants enjoyed his innovative programs – golf, basketball, public speaking and debating, Performing Arts, 4-H Rites of Passage and a week-long camp for African American males co-sponsored by Kellogg Foundation, Clemson University and the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

Honors: Among his many awards for service are the Jefferson Award, the Nobel Prize for Community Service; and two recognitions by the South Carolina House of Representatives (1998 and 2003).

Biography:

Rev. Dr. Romando James joined the Rutgers Univ. Extension Service and became the first New Jersey Urban 4-H Change Agent. The program served and incorporated significant numbers of under-represented urban youth by adding many non-traditional programs/ clubs such as The Playmakers Guild performing arts program. James was the subject of the 4-H training film "Living Your Choices, Romando". While at Rutgers, he held many offices in the NJ 4-H Agents Association. James joined the Clemson Univ. Family and Youth Development Department as a 4-H Curriculum specialist. He created a new program based on his Ph.D. dissertation called 4-H P.R.I.D.E. (Purpose, Respect, Integrity, Determination and Enthusiasm). This program taught survival life skills for adulthood.

Using Romando's P.R.I.D.E. curriculum and structure, the program expanded into an annual, week-long summer camp sponsored by Clemson 4-H and the Sixth District of the National Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. This further evolved into a prison ministry through the SC Dept. of Corrections. James was active in the National Education Assn., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, the Clemson Univ. Toastmasters and National Public Speakers Bureau. James was recognized for his 4-H community service and involvement, including the Nobel Prize for Community Service, and was recognized twice by the South Carolina House of Representatives for his outstanding contributions to 4-H'ers and other youth. Many outstanding leaders developed under his leadership, including Nikki Haley.

Quote:

"Your roots control your fruit,
And learn to master time or time will master you,
I've only just a minute, only 60 seconds in it.
Forced upon me, can't refuse it,
Didn't seek it, didn't choose it,
But it's up to me to use it.
I must suffer if I lose it,
Give an account if I abuse it,
Just a tiny little minute,
But eternity is in it."
- Dr. Benjamin Mays



Romando directs the 4-H leaders in singing in the P.R.I.D.E. annual celebration.



Romando James and 4-H leader salutes 4-H following debating and public speaking contest.



Romando presides over outreach program "Store Front Sewing and Electronic Centers" in urban communities sponsored by Singer Sewing Co. with 4-H leaders.