

National 4-H Hall of Fame 2015

Wisconsin



Linda Kustka
Volunteer Leadership Specialist

Home: Madison, WI

Nominated by: Wisconsin 4-H

Major 4-H Accomplishments:

A Wisconsin 4-H member, volunteer, parent, county 4-H Agent and State 4-H Volunteer Leadership Specialist. Helped create a state Youth Protection System program completed by 45,000 volunteers since 1994. advisor to the state 4-H Adult and Youth Leader Councils. Provided leadership to state 75th anniversaries for 4-H and Epsilon Sigma Phi, the Wisconsin Cooperative Extension Centennial, and the Wisconsin 4-H Hall of Fame.

Honors: Distinguished Service and Meritorious Service Awards, WAE4-HYDP and NAE4-HA. Wisconsin 4-H Hall of Fame, Epsilon Sigma Phi-Alpha Chapter Mid-Career and Retiree Service Awards. Professor Emerita in the Univ. of Wisconsin Extension Dept. of Youth Development.

Biography:

Linda Kustka has been a 4-H member, volunteer, parent, and staff in the Wisconsin Cooperative Extension youth program. In Manitowoc County, she learned speaking and leadership skills and appreciation for volunteer and community service. Linda expanded youth, volunteer, and staff involvement as Brown County 4-H Youth Development Agent (1973-82) and as the 4-H Volunteer Leadership Specialist (1982-2003). Her focuses included leadership and volunteer management, citizenship, arts education, and reaching underserved audiences. Her Brown County work increased from 33 to 144 volunteers serving on county management committees and supported 500 volunteers working with 1,500 youth in 50+ groups.

As state Specialist, Linda led the teams that created a state Youth Protection System program completed by 45,000 volunteers since 1994. She developed web-based lesson plans, train-the-trainer programs and materials for club officers. As advisor to the state 4-H Adult and Youth Leader Councils, she supported them in conducting conferences attended by thousands. Linda developed county 4-H educators through counseling, teaching materials, and training. Linda provided leadership to state 75th anniversaries for 4-H and Epsilon Sigma Phi, the Wisconsin Cooperative Extension Centennial, and the Wisconsin 4-H Hall of Fame, including developing materials and displays, acquiring grants, guiding events, and producing a DVD.

Quote:

4-H has been important to four generations of my family. Unable to secure bank loans, my mother Violet Pederson received a personal loan that enabled her to start a successful business of 40+ years based on her 4-H work/accomplishments. My children benefited from Westquesters, a wonderful Madison club.

I'm privileged to have partnered with caring and dedicated volunteers and staff, sharing the vision of making the world better through lives of service. The amazing partnerships between the land grant universities, local/state government, USDA, and National 4-H Council make the magic of learning fun for youth, family and community benefit.



Kellogg Foundation Program Director Gary W. King congratulates Linda Kustka and others for Volunteers for the Future grant.



4-H Youth Agent Linda Kustka distributes thousands of DNR trees to Brown County youth.



Wisconsin's 1st Agent, E.L. Luther, celebrates CES Centennial with colleagues Kathi Vos and Linda Kustka.