New Jersey 2003



Hometown: Mantua (Gloucester Co.), NJ Year Inducted: 2003

Rollyn Winters New Jersey State 4-H Leader, 1947-1974

4-H Stats: Established 4-H youth development work as an Extension position in NJ. Under his leadership, women were no longer assigned the title of Assistant 4-H Agent. Overcame opposition to embrace non-traditional programs like equine, now one of the largest project areas in NJ. Nurtured development of urban programming that changed the face of NJ 4-H. With the Extension Director and 4-H staff, Rolly was instrumental in establishing the NJ 4-H Camp and outdoor education program.

As he reflects on his dynamic career, Rollyn Winters says his "greatest joy was watching volunteers use their talents and abilities to help youth learn valuable skills to be successful." He truly believes that not limiting a person's capacity to learn, grow and develop is the very basic concept, upon which the 4-H program was founded.

"My staff always saw more in me than I saw in myself" says Rollyn Winters. Rolly exemplifies growth through 4-H as a member, leader, and staff member. As State 4-H Leader, he brought the 4-H program from under 7,000 rural youth to over 300,000 youth from diverse communities. His unique abilities to motivate people empowered volunteers and staff to develop creative, high quality youth programs. Rolly established a visionary 4-H advisory group system that continues to provide an active and effective organizational structure. As a youth development pioneer, Rolly supported a venue for expanding the 4-H program into urban areas, which was a catalyst for the evolution of New Jersey 4-H.