



Excellence in Team Awards Announced

JCEP, Joint Council of Extension Professionals, announces the 2008 winners of **the JCEP Excellence in Teamwork Awards**. Projects from Washington State University and Iowa State University Extension received the 2008 JCEP Excellence in Teamwork awards. The awards were presented at the Galaxy III Conference held in September.

JCEP, Joint Council of Extension Professionals, is the coordinating board made up of the past president, president-elect and president of the six Extension professional associations and honorary fraternity - ANREP, Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals, NACAA, National Association of County Agricultural Agents, NEAFCS, National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, ESP, Epsilon Sigma Phi and NAE4-HA, National Association of Extension 4-H Agents, NACDEP, National Association of Community Development Professionals. JCEP meets to coordinate national actions affecting all associations and our Extension system. JCEP's mission is to promote communication, cooperation and professionalism among Extension educators.

Joint Council of Extension Professionals Team Award Abstracts 2008

Spanish Literacy Program

Washington State University Team Members include: Kay Hendrickson, Lauri Sherfey, Alissa Schneider

When Maria was in the third grade, she stopped going to school in Mexico because her family could only afford transportation to send her brothers. When she arrived in Pasco, Washington years later as a fieldworker, she could barely read or write. Living in Pasco for fifteen years, Maria is currently a licensed family home child care provider and for the first time has the opportunity to continue her education.

The Spanish Literacy Program started in March 2007 with 28 child care providers including Maria. Recorded impacts show: increases in Spanish literacy and business skills, child care licensing competencies, and quality service for children. Through nearly a million dollar grant from the Gates Foundation the Spanish Literacy Program has expanded into a 3 year research project.

As a Gates Promising Models grant, the program is developing models for replication and adding knowledge that connects early-learning environments to children's school success.

Iowa Horizons

Iowa team members include: Don Broshar, Donna Donald, Ruth Freeman, Abbie Gaffey, Mary Beth Kaufman, Joyce Lash, Brenda Schmitt, Mary Weinand, Barbara Wollan, Phillis Zalenski

In the fall of 2006, Iowa communities with populations between 500 and 5000 people and at least 10% poverty rate applied to complete the 18 month Horizons program following a five-phase approach focused on: learning about poverty reduction; developing ideas for action through study circles and community forums; building leaderships skills, creating a community vision and implementing a plan of action. Iowa State University Extension delivers the program with major funding from the Northwest Area Foundation.

Horizons helps communities build stronger leaders to address economic issues and implement change. 202 trained community facilitators guided 1030 people as they learned about poverty through Study Circles. 750 community volunteers completed 30 hours of LeadershipPlenty® training. Examples of community projects include: increasing

access to food, community-wide clean-ups, expanded childcare services and youth mentoring programs. For families and communities to thrive, everyone needs an opportunity to prosper; connecting people with resources and life skill development.

Two **JCEP Excellence in Extension Teamwork** awards will be presented in 2009. Program/project must involve at least two or more different program areas, such as agriculture, 4-H Youth Development, family and consumer sciences, natural resources or community development. Applications for the 2009 awards will be due April 1, 2009. Visit the JCEP website <http://www.jcep.org/> for complete details and an application form.

Fred Miller
JCEP President