

# CYF NEWS

## FEBRUARY 2004

# MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

### *In This Issue*

- Message from the Leadership Team*
- Training Opportunities*
- All Children Exercising Simultaneously (ACES)*
- FNP Proposal Templates for 2004-05*
- You Earned It – Keep It (EITC)*
- 4-H News:*
  - Exploration Days*
  - Priority Program Area Update*
  - Cloverbud Update*
  - Communication Focus*
  - Teaming Up for Youth*
  - Blue Ribbon Update*
- Deadline for March Articles*
- Quote of the Month*



### **Message from the Leadership Team**

Have you noticed the daylight is lasting a bit longer? It won't be long and we will be thinking of spring.

We welcome Jaime Dugan to the campus-based FCS team. Jaime will provide leadership to MIHAS/ Building Strong Families beginning March 1. She has a very strong background in early childhood from her work in Shiawassee County with the ASAP PIE project.

Congratulations to Brian Winn in the MSU Communication Technology Laboratory, Gayle Coleman in FCS, and the team of students who created the Fantastic Food Challenge CD Rom for winning an Award of Excellence from the Broadcast Education Association. The award will be presented to Brian at the Festival of Media Arts in Las Vegas, NV in April. Copies of the CD Rom will be shared with FNP and EFNEP staff later this spring, and available for sale.

Cheri, Gayle and Kathy are looking forward to continuing their regional visits this spring to visit with each of you about MSUE initiatives around the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Prenatal to Three-Year-Old Programming, and Youth Mentoring. We're excited to be able to offer this very important contemporary issue-based programming for Michigan families.

The EITC offers the opportunity for Michigan families to claim their fair share of \$484 million that's there for the filing. It's a natural educational opportunity for us, since the audience is virtually the same as for many of our other low income programs.

In prenatal-to-age-three programming we're already reaching more than 11,000 low-income, vulnerable parents of young children with research-based education and support covering the topics of parenting, breastfeeding nutrition, literacy, indoor air quality, lead abatement and immunizations. It's important that we continue to help decision-makers realize the vital roles Extension is playing in these current issues.

The 4-H Youth Development program uses small groups and one-on-one mentoring experiences to make connections between both adults and older teens who work with young people. Our work helps to build strengths in youth in the areas of cognitive, emotional and social development in an environment

of experiential learning. By redistributing our efforts, providing training across the state and working with our existing and new networks, we will expand the number of youths touched by quality mentoring programs.

### **Upcoming FCS Training Opportunities**

#### ***March 10 and 11***

Breastfeeding Basics training, Novi, MI  
contact person — Pat Benton

#### ***March 23***

Nutrition I – Training for New Food, Nutrition and Health staff, contact person — Kathy Majewski

### **All Children Exercising Simultaneously (ACES) May 5, 2004 @ 10 a.m.**

Please encourage schools and communities to participate in ACES Day 2004, an international celebration of the importance of physical activity. See [www.michiganfitness.org](http://www.michiganfitness.org) to register and download a free ACES idea kit. For further information contact the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports at 1-800-434-8642.



**FNP Proposal Templates for 2004-05** are now available on the FNP Web site! County FNP staff are now able to download directions, forms and support materials directly. To locate the FNP Proposal Templates for 2004-05, enter the Family and Consumer Sciences Web site at <http://www.fcs.msue.msu.edu/FNP/>, choose the FNP program from the Programs menu, and click on the Downloads tab at the top of the page. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Cronk at [cronkl@msue.msu.edu](mailto:cronkl@msue.msu.edu) or 517.432.4408.

### **“You Earned It – You Keep It” – The Earned Income Tax Credit Statewide Initiative**

The Statewide EITC campaign is in full swing and Michigan State University Extension offices can play a part in promoting the Earned Income Tax Credit. How would you go about it? Well, it's easy. Just check out [www.michigan.gov/eitc](http://www.michigan.gov/eitc). See if there

are currently free tax preparation sites in your community by clicking on *County Resources and Site Schedules* and promote the free tax assistance sites to our MSUE clientele. Available on the Web site under the resource kit section are flyers and press releases that you can use or use the media release from the FCS media packets (released January – April 2004) on the EITC initiative (<http://www.fcs.msue.msu.edu/mediapacket/>)

Don't forget, there may be free tax assistance offered in your community through AARP – Tax Aide. AARP – Tax Aide provides free tax assistance to people of all ages with middle and low income, with special attention to those aged 60 and older. To find out about a location close to you, go to [www.aarp.org/taxaide](http://www.aarp.org/taxaide) or call 1-888- AARP NOW or 1.888.227.7669.

If there is not free tax assistance sites in your community, that's ok. We can still get the word out about the EITC. Let our citizens know that this money is unclaimed and that they may be eligible if they meet the requirements. Eligibility requirements include: You must file income taxes and have earned income. Your adjusted gross income must be less than...

- \$29,666 for taxpayers with one qualifying child (\$30,666 for married and filing jointly) to receive a credit up to \$2,547.
- \$33,692 for taxpayers with more than one qualifying child (\$34,692 for married and filing jointly) to receive a credit up to \$4,204.
- \$11,230 for taxpayers with no qualifying child (\$12,230 for married and filing jointly) to receive a credit up to \$382.

For more information on how you can help promote the EITC in your community, contact Erica Tobe at [tobee@msue.msu.edu](mailto:tobee@msue.msu.edu) or Susan Cocciairelli at [cocciare@msu.edu](mailto:cocciare@msu.edu).



## 4-H NEWS

---

### 4-H Exploration Days Update

4-H Exploration Days will be June 23-25, 2004. This state youth development conference is held on the MSU campus and helps youth ages 11-19 learn new ideas, techniques and skills and gain exposure to MSU. Youth do not have to be 4-H members to attend. Personal growth is increased by giving youth opportunities to develop teamwork, cooperation, decision-making and time management skills. They also meet new people from different places and with different backgrounds from across Michigan. Participants attend one or two sessions throughout their three-day stay. There are 178 sessions to choose from.

CYF staff are encouraged to begin their recruitment efforts now. Registration books will soon be available on-line at

<http://www.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/expodays.html>.

Books will also be distributed to each county MSUE office. Counties will have from March 23 to May 14 to submit registrations.

### Priority Program Area Update from 4-H Environmental & Outdoor Education Team

The new 4-H Environmental & Outdoor Education Priority Program Area Team is up and running! The team held an overnight planning retreat at Kettunen Center on January 23 and 24. The group discussed the individual visions, missions, goals and objectives of the former State 4-H Programming Committees that now fall within the EOE umbrella (Shooting Sports, Natural Resources & Environmental Education, Challenge and Project FISH) -- as well as new EOE initiatives -- and created common visions and goals. Much discussion focused on three general areas: curriculum, training and marketing. Watch for exciting things to come from this new 4-H priority program area -- just not all at once!



### Michigan 4-H Cloverbud Update

Mark your calendar today! Please hold Wednesday, May 19, 2004, at Kettunen Center for an incredible workshop opportunity! The Michigan 4-H Cloverbud Curriculum Design Team is excited to announce a day-long training featuring two recognized colleagues from Ohio State University. The workshop will feature the expertise of Scott D. Scheer, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Extension

Specialist and Theresa M. Ferrari, Ph.D., Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist.

Dr. Scheer is the author of the Journal of Extension article, *Programming Parameters for 5- to 8-year-Old Children in 4-H*. The Michigan 4-H Cloverbud Task Force has used the article as background as it developed the vision for Michigan.

Theresa Ferrari completed her Ph.D. at MSU. Dr. Ferrari is widely known for her work with 4-H youth development in Ohio and across the USA. Her expertise in middle childhood development and out-of-school programming provides a context for programming.

Workshop topics will include:

- Programming parameters for Cloverbuds
- Working with volunteers
- Club development
- Dealing with issues
- Curriculum

The Michigan 4-H Cloverbud Design Team encourages all staff with 4-H responsibilities to attend this training opportunity. Watch for more complete details in the week.

4-H Cloverbud Design Team members include:

Connie Lange, Branch County  
Marlene Lehman, Branch County Volunteer  
Dee Miller, Antrim County  
Jodi Schultz, Bay County  
Michelle Hyde, Clare County  
Michelle Collins, Lenawee County  
Kathy Walters-Surratt, Barry County  
Becky McKee, Campus  
Janet Olsen, Campus  
Dean Kiesling, Campus  
Sheila Urban Smith, Campus

### Communications Focus for 4-H Youth Development State Staff Linkers

Six State 4-H staff have been assigned a new role called Regional Linkers. Our job description is evolving as we partner with our colleagues in regions across the state to strengthen the 4-H Youth Development work we all do.

Developing a two-way communication link between on- and off-campus staff has emerged as an essential role for the Regional Linkers. Through on-going

interaction, we hope to build a stronger understanding of the roles we (county and state staff) each play within MSUE. It is important for Linkers and County 4-H staff to become familiar with the programming priorities we strive for and the needs, challenges and opportunities we deal with. Ultimately, the Linker goals are to build relationships and to assist each other in county and state 4-H program capacity building.

The recommendation for State 4-H Staff Regional Linkers came out of the work of a 4-H Youth Development Task Force of on- and off-campus staff who met for several months beginning in late 2002. This Task Force was formed to assist in restructuring Michigan 4-H Youth Development. With reductions in county- and campus-based staffing and reallocation of existing resources to support programs, communication between all parts of the organization was seen as a very critical issue in this time of transition. The regional linkers are one way we are working to address this issue.

The six state 4-H staff serving as Regional Linkers are:

U.P.	Cyndi Mark
North	Julie Chapin
West	Judy Ratkos
East Central	Dean Kiesling
Southwest	Betsy Knox
Southeast	Sheila Urban Smith

### **Teaming Up for Youth Saturday, March 20, 2004**

Don't let volunteers miss out on this exciting opportunity! All former programming committee members and new priority program area work teams have been invited to come together on Saturday, March 20 at Kettunen Center to celebrate and develop plans for 4-H future programming. We will accomplish a great amount of work, but have mini-celebrations planned throughout the day. Everyone's input and expertise is needed as we move ahead to plan programs that benefit youth across Michigan. Register for *Teaming Up for Youth*, Workshop #119. There is no cost to attend, but registration is important for the meal count. If you learn of someone who did not receive the mailing, or have further questions, please contact Laura Allen at [lacourse@msue.msu.edu](mailto:lacourse@msue.msu.edu) or 517.432.7632.

### **Blue Ribbon Q&A**

- Q.** In our county, all General/Org Leaders (Direct Volunteers are all part of the 4-H Advisory Council, therefore they should also be marked as a direct volunteer. My question is, if we have 25 leaders with both direct and indirect checked, will they count as 25 volunteers or 50 volunteers for ES-237? I hope I am making myself clear and not confusing you.
- A.** This is a case where the ES-237 doesn't count people as duplicates. Each volunteer or leader can have as many categories checked as fits their individual situation. You're not inflating your numbers because of this.

If you have questions or need help contact Judy Lentz-Bishop, at [bishopj@msue.msu.edu](mailto:bishopj@msue.msu.edu), 517.353.2922 or Laura Allen, at [lacourse@msue.msu.edu](mailto:lacourse@msue.msu.edu), 517.432-7632.

### **Deadline for Next Edition of "CYF NEWS"**

March 15, 2004, is the deadline for submitting articles for the March 19, 2004, edition of "CYF News." Please submit articles to Gail Hebert at [hebertg@msue.msu.edu](mailto:hebertg@msue.msu.edu)

### **Quote of the Month**

"One hundred percent of the shots you don't take don't go in."  
—Wayne Gretzky

---