

NEWS RELEASE

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CALIFORNIA WOMEN TO BE INDUCTED INTO THE NATIONAL 4-H HALL OF FAME

CHEVY CHASE, MD (October 7, 2015) – Sharon Junge of Auburn, California was inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame on October 9 for her lifetime achievements and contributions to 4-H.

Honored by the California 4-H Youth Development Program, Junge was one of 16 people inducted during the ceremony at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

The National 4-H Hall of Fame honorees are nominated by their home states, National 4-H Council, the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents or 4-H National Headquarters based upon their exceptional leadership at the local, state, national and international levels.

Honorees were presented with a National 4-H Hall of Fame medallion, plaque and memory book during the ceremony. The National 4-H Hall of Fame was established in 2002 as part of the Centennial Project of the NAE4-HA in partnership with National 4-H Council and National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA.

For more information about the National 4-H Hall of Fame event and past recipients, visit www.nae4ha.com/hof



“We are proud to acknowledge the outstanding 2015 National 4-H Hall of Fame honorees for the passion, dedication, vision and leadership they’ve shown toward our young people during their many years of service to 4-H,” says Jeannette Rea Keywood, National 4-H Hall of Fame Committee Chair.

For nearly 40 years, Sharon served as a Family and Consumer Sciences and 4-H Youth Development Advisor and County Director in Placer and Nevada Counties for over 30 years. She accepted Statewide UC Cooperative Extension Positions as Healthy Families & Communities Statewide Initiatives Leader Acting Statewide 4-H Director in 2007. Most notably, Sharon was an early pioneer in afterschool programming, developing the first 4-H Afterschool Programs run by 4-H and Cooperative Extension in the nation and the largest California effort to reach more Latino youth in 4-H. Over 1,500 youth

Sharon Junge – Inducted in 4-H Hall of Fame

were reached annually in Placer and Nevada counties with a yearly budget of over \$1.5 million. Her state afterschool expertise led to her work at the national level on several projects including, director of one the 4-H Afterschool Centers for Action (1991-1995), and a member of the National Extension Network for Child Care Board (1995-99), USDA's Extension CARES Initiative Steering Committee (1999-2003), the National School-age Editorial Board (2001-02), and the Leadership Team for National 4-H Afterschool. She has written extensively on these projects and her curricula and evaluation findings are cited in many other works on afterschool programming. She authored other National Extension System afterschool resources such as *Reaching Out to and Meeting the Needs of Diverse Audiences* and *Teens as Volunteer Leaders... Recruiting and Training Teens to Work with Younger Youth in After-school Programs* and co-authored three other curricula with the National 4-H Leadership team that are used in 42 states. Expanding on her 4-H Afterschool work, she served as Co-Principal Investigator for the multi-year Youth Experiences in Science (YES) project funded by NSF (\$980,000). As the 4-H Program Leader she continued her efforts in afterschool and science education securing a grant to co-develop *Tools of the Trade I and II, Inspiring Young Minds to be SET Ready for Life*, which allowed 4-H to provide professional development to afterschool providers enriching the experiences of nearly 114,000 youth statewide and countless more nationally.

Through her leadership, she helped launch the state's 4-H Science, Engineering, and Technology (SET) Initiative led by the 4-H SET Leadership Team. She provided expertise to secure funding for the development of *There's No New Water!* curriculum, the 5-year CYFAR project focused on science through gardening, and other SET projects, resources, and training. She also launched California's Healthy Living Initiative. In 2010, Sharon successfully secured a \$1.2 million gift over a five year period to strengthen the 4-H club program through the integration of cutting edge research on positive youth development and positive mindset, *4-H Thrive*. This gift resulted in youth leadership development projects that reached 8500 youth and 2000 adult volunteers who contributed 9746 hours of volunteer service to their communities. The value of volunteer service is \$1,101,267, essentially doubling the value of the initial gift of this ongoing project.

There has never been a program leader in CA that garnered the support and trust of colleagues within Cooperative Extension both in 4-H and in other program areas. Sharon is fully invested in 4-H and the powerful impact 4-H makes on the lives of youth, families and communities. As an Emeritus Advisor she still works to develop curricula for youth nutrition education and supports and mentors 4-H Youth Development academics and staff. She continues to be a trusted colleague whose knowledge and expertise is valued and consulted.

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