**Condition Change: UC ANR contributed to increased effective public leaders**

**Issue**

In the last ten years, 37-56% of U.S. adults approved of the U.S. president’s job performance and 48-74% were confident that the U.S. president would do the right thing in world affairs. Furthermore, only 64% of U.S. adults say the overall quality of candidates running for congress in their districts was good. These Pew Research Center public opinion study findings indicate a continued need for increased effective and responsive public leaders.

**Methods**

UC ANR’s extensive network and youth development programs equip the next generation of public leaders.

UC ANR developed, evaluated, and delivered evidence-based educational programs that provided youth with leadership skills. UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE) academics provided oversight, leadership, and guidance for the statewide implementation of the UC 4-H Youth Development Program (UC 4-H) which reached over 155,000 youth and had almost 20,000 adult volunteers contribute over 1,700,000 hours (UC 4-H). Program activities like Project 4H20 and 4-H Student Advisory Nutrition Councils (4-H SNAC Club) empowered youth to take on leadership roles in research, teaching, and service-learning projects to improve their communities (Marisa Neelon and Charles Go; Shannon Klisch and Katherine Soule).

UCCE academics led the California 4-H Camp Outcomes Study, which assesses youth’s independence, friendship skills, emotional safety, self-efficacy, affinity for nature, and leadership skills. The study grew to 22 camps in 2019 and included a new study component to better understand the adult/chaperone experience at 4-H camp. Evaluation data was shared at the 4-H Camping Institute with 50 individuals from 15 camps participating in the study, who will use the data and developed action plans for their camp programs (Marianne Bird).

As a result of UC ANR research and educational efforts, youth participants learned and applied scientific methods, leadership, presentation, and advocacy skills. Outcomes with specific indicators follow.

**Outcomes**

**Participants adopted leadership skills and extended evidence-based information to their peers and decision-makers.**

* Over 500 4-H youth responded to the universal positive youth development common measures survey and 88% of youth report having social and leadership skills, including the ability to communicate through multiple methods and have value and respect for other cultures, as a result of what they may have learned at 4-H. (UC 4-H)
* In Contra Costa County, Project 4-H20’s third cohort of five new 4-H teen leaders adopted research, teamwork, and communication skills. The teens were able to evaluate the outcomes of the ongoing campaign, finding that 52% reported drinking more water because they were reminded by the campaign signage and messaging. Throughout the teen-led research project, the teens demonstrated skills as effective public leaders influencing the health of their school community. (Marisa Neelon and Charles Go)
* 95% of 32 student leaders in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barba Counties reported improved presentation skills as a result of participating in 4-H SNAC. Qualitative data collected from the Leadership Academy show themes of improved recognition of career pathways, enhanced confidence and presentation skills, and increased confidence in being a leader. (Shannon Klisch and Katherine Soule)
* Across the state, teens leading resident camp programs reported significant increases in several skills including leading group discussions, working as a team member, speaking before a group, seeing things objectively, planning, teaching, sharing their opinions with adults. Teens in the Capitol Corridor resident camp staff demonstrated growth across all seven leadership skills. (Marianne Bird)

These measured outcomes demonstrated that leadership skills were learned and applied for the benefit of local California communities. Research findings published in the 2018 Health Education & Behavior journal indicate that involvement in youth participatory action research such as the projects described above can lead to positive leadership, academic, and career outcomes. In this way, UC ANR contributes to the public value of developing a qualified workforce for California.