

*Dear Lynn,*

*I'm a new 4-H volunteer in vegetable science, and want some recommendations on various 4-H projects, events, and resources that I could use to prepare my members to not only have successful 4-H careers, but also prepare them for college by becoming literate in agriculture and science.*

*Sincerely, Annie Algae*

Dear Annie Algae,

In 2007, the National 4-H Council launched a new Science, Engineering, and Technology (SET) Initiative that is intended to reach one million new youth across the country in SET-related programs by the year 2013.

California has responded to this initiative by establishing a SET steering committee made up of 4-H youth, volunteers, staff, and administrators, as well as experts in the fields of science and education from beyond Cooperative Extension to formulate the California 4-H SET plan.

The plan for California will be focused on providing resources, training, and support for SET in the following three areas:

- Program Development and Marketing
- Curriculum Development
- Professional Development

The SET initiative will include opportunities to develop and implement programs using multiple delivery modes, utilize the experiential learning model, and create a system for University educators, community partners, and agencies to establish dynamic partnerships. Through these collaborations, local Cooperative Extension programs will be able to provide California youth with cutting-edge science, engineering, and technology resources and programs.

California SET Initiative co-chairs Richard Mahacek – Merced County 4-H YDA / CD, Lynn Schmitt-McQuitty – 4-H YDA Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties, and Martin Smith – Extension Specialist at UC Davis plan to begin providing professional development opportunities around the SET for staff and volunteers in Fall of 2008. For more information and to keep abreast of California and National 4-H SET Initiative developments, visit the SET website at: <http://www.ca4h.org/projresource/SET/index.asp>