

Excellence in Teamwork Awards Announced

JCEP, Joint Council of Extension Professionals, announces the 2004 winners of **the JCEP Excellence in Teamwork Awards**. Projects from Georgia and Hawaii will receive the 2004 JCEP Excellence in Teamwork awards. The awards will be presented at the national Extension professional association meetings of the winning team members.

JCEP, Joint Council of Extension Professionals, is the coordinating board made up of the past president, president-elect and president of the five 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. 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.

The Georgia project, **Working with Public Officials: A Georgia Perspective** included JCEP team members. Jan Baggary and Mandel Smith, NEAFCS; Mary Ellen Blackburn and Connie Page, ESP; Cheryl Hovatter and Kathy Floyd, NAE4-HA, Mickey Fourakers and Phil Torrance, NACAA and [Mandel Smith and Gary Hawkins, ANREP](#). Dwindling Extension budgets mobilized the Georgia JCEP team to work with their administrators and faculty statewide to increase communications and enthusiasm for working with public decision makers. They developed a FY 2005 budget request publication and trained all county Extension agents to better communicate with elected officials.

The Hawaii project, **KAMP, Kindergartners are Most Precious**, involved Extension professionals, Carol Ikeda, Joan Chong, Ann Fontes, Laura Kawamura, Christine Nunogaswa, Rose Salto, Maryknoll Spotkaeff, Deborah Ward and Rhoda Yoshino. The team members belong to the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, Epsilon Sigma Phi and National Association of Extension 4-H Agents. "KAMP" is designed to prepare parents and their child for positive experiences in kindergarten by providing parents with relevant information about the developmental abilities and needs of kindergartners; orienting kindergartners and parents with the school staff and facilities; engaging parents and kindergartners with interactive learning experiences which develop cognitive, perceptual, and motor skills; and encouraging and empowering parents to continue being their child's "teachers." "KAMP" focuses on developing positive parenting skills; motivating parents to supplement their child's school learning experiences, particularly in reading; and building an effective partnership with the schools to achieve successful educational experiences for their child. The "Leadership Team" includes 4-H Agents; Home Economists; an Agricultural Agent; State Strengthening Community Site Facilitators, 4-H adult and teen volunteers, Family Community Education member volunteers, and community parents. The Joint Council of Extension Professionals sponsors this award to encourage and recognize successful Extension team programs or projects that demonstrate effective performance and significant result impacts at community, area, state or multi-state levels. Hawaii's unique kindergarten transition program has involved kindergartners and families at over thirty schools on the islands of Kauai, Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii, reaching over 30 schools and 1,200 entering kindergartners and 1,800 parents. Parents and teachers both report positive behavior changes in children and the parents themselves.

Two **JCEP Excellence in Extension Teamwork** awards will be presented in 2005. 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 2005 awards will be due April 1, 2005. Visit the JCEP website www.jcep.org for complete details and an application form.

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