

National 4-H Hall of Fame 2014

Michigan



Michael J. Tate

Asst. Director of Extension; State Director, Michigan 4-H Youth Development

Hometown: Detroit, MI

Nominated by: Michigan 4-H

Major 4-H Accomplishments:

One-year Detroit 4-H member, 1957. MSU Extension 4-H Youth Agent, Berrien Co., 1972-76; State 4-H Program Leader, 1976-79; Assoc. State 4-H Director, 1979-83; Asst. Director of Extension & State 4-H Director, 1983-93; Assoc. Interim Dean, College of Agriculture & Natural Resources, Director of Extension, 1990-91. Board member, secretary, MI 4-H Foundation, 1983-93. Board member, chair-elect, MI Nonprofit Assn., 1993-98. Delegate to Pres. Clinton's Summit for America's Future, 1997. Founding board member, MI Community Service Commission, 1992-98. **Honors:** USDA Superior Service Award, 1978; Epsilon Sigma Phi Certificate of Meritorious Service, 1993; MI 4-H & NAE4-HA Distinguished Service Awards, 1999.

Biography:

As State 4-H Director, Mike provided administrative and program leadership for the Michigan 4-H system involving 200,000 youth, 25,000 volunteers, 170 campus and field-based educators, and many private supporters. The state 4-H budget exceeded \$8 million. Program development evolved and thrived under his leadership. He recognized that quality programs require the right blend of quality people to do quality work. He recruited and supported a large and diverse cadre of state and county faculty and staff. He developed many partnerships with nonprofits, which increased 4-H visibility, and strengthened relations with policymakers. He was the principal development officer for nearly \$7 million in grants during his Michigan 4-H tenure.

Working with Mike was life-changing for many. He acknowledged the value of everyone's contributions and created endless opportunities for those involved in Michigan 4-H to reach high, develop and achieve. Mike set the bar high and rallied people to rise to the occasion. He prepared staff and volunteers to take on things they didn't know were possible. He would often state, "It's time to take a risk," when rallying support for a new initiative. He was excellent at tapping resources and extensive in his reach that was guided by youth development concepts and experiential learning. He also made sure that 4-H had "youth voice," at the local level and at the state level through programming committees, design teams and task forces.

Quote:

Always be prepared for the next opportunity. Approach life as a call to action and frame challenges as opportunities. Lead by example to inspire people to work harder and smarter with care and respect for both the work you're doing and the people you're working with. Keep looking towards the future while continually reflecting on the past. Learning is the fuel for life.



Mike Tate early in his career.



Mike Tate addressing a crowd.