

National 4-H Hall of Fame 2017

NIFA, USDA



Thomas Gillespie Tate
National Program Leader, USDA, retired

Home: Columbia, MO Nominated by: NIFA

Major 4-H Accomplishments:

First national collection of 4-H publications accessible online; email messaging between state and county 4-H staff; state and national 4-H technology conferences; the first national 4-H web site; 4-H Teens teaching Seniors to use computers; over 900 4-H computer labs using surplus federal computers; youth using GIS, GPS and remote sensing in mapping. Helped establish the 4-H History Preservation Team. Honors: NAE4HA Distinguished Service Award. Fellow: MIT Center for Advanced Engineering Study, USDA Young Executive Program, UN Food and Agriculture Organization. Youth Community Service Award, ESRI. U. S. Congressional Leadership Award. USDA Superior Service Award. Hammer Award, Reinventing Government.

Biography:

Thomas Tate's service to 4-H spanned four decades (1977-2017). His career provided national leadership to improving organizational performance through innovations in the use of information technology and telecommunications. He led major development and implementation efforts at McDonnell Aircraft Corporation Manned Space Flight program (1966-67), University of Missouri (1968-69), MIT Center for Advance Engineering Study, (1976-77) and USDA Extension Service, (1970-76, 1978-2009). His commitment to growing the next generation of leaders motivated him to lead efforts to apply information technology and telecommunications to improve the management and delivery of research based knowledge to youth and families in small towns and rural areas.

Tate helped establish many 4-H technology initiatives: the first national collection of 4-H publications accessible online from the National Agricultural Library; email messaging between state and county 4-H staff; state and national 4-H technology conferences and the first national 4-H web site; 4-H teens teaching Seniors to use computers; over 900 4-H computer labs using surplus federal computers; 4-Hers learning to use GIS, GPS and remote sensing in mapping community conditions that need improvement and for emergency preparedness. Tom helped establish the 4-H History Preservation Team to make 4-H history accessible online to people world-wide. In retirement, Tom continues to mentor tech-savvy 4-H youth from many states using online computer conferencing.

Quote:

The key to the success of our youth, families, communities and world is positive leadership, based on scientifically based knowledge.

4-H provides the intergenerational partnership model, for youth and adults to learn from each other.

4-H has never been needed more than it is today.

It has been a great honor to be involved with 4-H. I have learned so much from 4-H members and their families!



Tom helps a youth learn about evacuation mapping.



Tom helps to educate others about 4-H history preservation.



Tom helps to teach 4-H youth and volunteers about mapping community health data.

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Nancy Valentine

National 4-H Program Leader, National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Hometown: Rivesville, WV Nominated by: NIFA

Major 4-H Accomplishments:

4-H member and teen leader, Marion Co., WV (1960-1969); 4-H Volunteer, Monongalia Co., WV; Summer State 4-H Camping Assistant, WV (1969-70); Summer State 4-H Staff Assistant, WV Equine Program (1970-1990); County 4-H Agent, Marion Co., WV (1978-1990); National 4-H Program Leader, USDA, 1990 - 2014 retirement.

Honors: WV State 4-H All Star (1968); National 4-H Congress 1967 (horses) & 1969 (leadership); WVU Leadership Award (1990); NAE4-HA: Distinguished Service Award (1989), 25 Year Service Award (2004), Meritorious Service Award (2004); National Extension Leadership Development (NELD) IV; Federal Senior Executive Service Certification (1994); USDA Secretary Award (team), (2003); Federal 35 Year Service Award (2013).

Biography:

Dr. Nancy Valentine anxiously awaited her 10th birthday so she could join the 4-H club near the rural town of Rivesville, WV (population 300). This began her 54 years of engagement with 4-H. As a County 4-H Agent, Dr. Valentine provided leadership for: a county-wide 4-H Foundation, over 25 4-H community 4-H clubs and after-school programs; a volunteer management system with over 150 adult volunteer leaders; and a 100-acre camp facility. In 1989, due to state budgets, the WV Extension Service was slated to be reduced by about 65%. Dr. Valentine led a major state and university-wide effort that restored funding and secured legislation to keep the WV Extension Service at full capacity.

Dr. Valentine became a National 4-H Program Leader at the USDA in 1990 where she administered major grant programs such as: Youth at Risk (now Children, Youth and Families at Risk) - \$10M, Agriculture in the Classroom - \$500,000, and Rural Youth Development - \$2M. She co-authored a staff development grant funded at \$3.5M and collaborated with 4-H Council to administer a \$5.3M grant. Dr. Valentine also managed the 4-H Name and Emblem Authorization Process which included incorporating the federal mark "USC 707" with the 4-H Emblem, the first change in many decades.

Quote:

"I touch the future. I teach." - Christa McAuliffe, NASA Astronaut (deceased), Space Shuttle Challenger

Throughout my 50+ years working with 4-H in a variety of capacities...from community to national levels...I have often thought of this simple, but powerful phrase. As a result of my non-formal "teaching" opportunities in 4-H, I have had the privilege of watching: young people grow into capable, caring, and productive adults; families strengthen positive environments for their children; and, ordinary youths and adults accomplish extraordinary things for their communities and world. My 4-H career was never work, but rather a fulfillment of my personal mission in life. It is truly rewarding to have "touched the future" in such significant ways.



Nancy combined her 4-H sewing skills with her horse projects to make a saddle and parade blankets.



Nancy Valentine, center, with two other Pharoah's Run 4-H club members in their sewing projects (1962).



Nancy Valentine, standing, is shown conducting a Marion County 4-H Teen Leaders Association meeting as president (ca 1965-66).