



4-H PROMOTES HIGHER EDUCATION

Speakers

- Dr. Ed Jones, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, and Associate Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Virginia Tech; Co-Chair, ECOP 4-H National Leadership Committee
- Dr. Cathann Kress, Vice President for Extension and Outreach, Iowa State University; member, National 4-H Council Board of Trustees, and member, ECOP 4-H National Leadership Committee

What is 4-H? *The nation's largest positive youth development and youth mentoring organization, empowering six million young people in the U.S.*

4-H is the premier youth development program of the 110 land-grant universities through the Cooperative Extension System, administered in partnership with the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) working together with the private partner, National 4-H Council. 4-H is research-based and available through 4-H clubs, camps, afterschool and school enrichment programs in every county and parish in the nation. 4-H reaches youth from ages 5-21. See www.4-H.org and <https://nifa.usda.gov/program/4-h-national-headquarters>. Efforts are underway to engage 10 million youth in 4-H by 2025 <http://www.4-h.org/get-involved/grow-true-leaders-campaign/>.

What does 4-H have to do with higher education?

4-H prepares and promotes higher education for youth, not necessarily recruiting for one institution. Collegiate 4-H programs exist on many campuses besides land grants. Some states have compiled data on 4-H members and the institutions to which they matriculate. 4-H positively impacts college attendance through:

- Scholarships -- a robust scholarship program supported by county and state 4-H foundations
- Experiences -- local, statewide, national, and international events and experiences
- Accelerators (for disadvantaged youth) -- introduce youth to 4-H and campus
- Aspirations and interests -- opportunities to learn about potential careers through the wide array of project areas
- Connections -- to a peer group that values education

What does evaluation research say about 4-H and higher education?

4-H youth are:

- 2 times MORE likely to plan to attend college
- 2 times MORE likely to get better grades
- 2 times MORE likely to pursue science careers

<http://www.4-h.org/about/youth-development-research/positive-youth-development-study/>

What is the purpose of today's time with the APLU Council of Presidents?

Following an introduction by Dr. Gordon Gee, President, West Virginia State University, and member, National 4-H Council Board of Trustees, Drs. Jones and Kress will engage the Council in a conversation about how 4-H might expand its efforts to encourage youth to pursue post-secondary education and involve faculty/staff in engaging youth.

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