

Regional Team Diversity/Multicultural Recognition
Nomination by Alpha Zeta Chapter
Texas 4-H Building Community Inclusion
c/o Dr. Darlene Locke
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TEAM MEMBERS:

Dr. Darlene Locke - Assist. Professor & Extension 4-H & Youth Development Specialist - Team Ldr.
Neal Brenner - Student San Angelo State University and Former 4-H Member
Laurinda Boyd -4-H Program Assistant, Kerr County
Lillianne Goeders - County Extension Agent - Urban Youth Development, Travis County
Dr. Jeff Howard - Assoc. State 4-H Program Leader
Kelli Lehman - County Extension Agent - 4-H & Youth Development, Collin County
Sheryl Nolen - County Extension Agent - Urban Youth Development, Montgomery County

NARRATIVE SUMMARY:

The climate of Texas 4-H is making marked changes as a result of this diversity inclusion effort by the Texas 4-H Building Community Inclusion (BCI) Team. During Summer 2005, one-half of the youth registered to participate in Mission Possible at the Texas 4-H Center indicated they have special accommodation needs, a historic first for the Center. The county programming efforts are beginning to domino because each inclusion training that is conducted leads to more of an appreciation for the strength of having a program with diverse groups of people. The inclusions trainings that have been conducted in public schools lead to a climate where people with disabilities are more accepted and understood. Most people have either heard about, or personally witnessed, the taunting and bullying that special needs children are subjected to at school!

The image of Texas 4-H to the general public is critical to the continued funding of Texas Cooperative Extension. The efforts being conducted are particularly important as the general public and elected officials observe how 4-H values diversity and the BCI Team is leading the way to make 4-H more accommodating and welcoming to all people.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Funding sources:

Dr. Jeff Howard, Associate State 4-H Program Leader, and Dr. Darlene Locke, Program Director, Texas 4-H Center, submitted and were awarded a \$9,600 grant through National 4-H Council and MEAF to support a Texas inclusion effort. The \$9,600 grant included training funds to allow each of the eight county groups to send three (3) representatives (at least one youth and at least one disabled person) to a weekend Inclusion training program at the Texas 4-H Center. The grant also allowed for a Leadership Inclusion Camp called Mission Possible conducted at the Texas 4-H Center in June, 2005 allowing up to 45 youth with and without disabilities to participate together in an inclusive camping environment.

Texas' Building Community Inclusion effort:

Seven (7) county programs completed mini-grant applications and were accepted into the program. Counties represented include Montgomery, Travis (4 groups), Collin and Kerr. County governance groups have representatives from County 4-H Councils, Lions Club, religious organizations, Texas School for the Blind, Texas School for the Deaf, 4-H Ambassador groups, Student Councils, local March of Dimes organizations, community colleges and neighborhood centers.

Inclusion Training:

Seven county governance groups made up of Youth and Adults, with and without disabilities participated in a weekend Train the Trainer program held at the Texas 4-H Center. Workshops included Effective

Youth-Adult Partnerships using the National 4-H Creating Youth/Adult Partnerships curriculum, Disability Awareness, Disability Etiquette and Including Youth with Disabilities in Recreation programs. 37 individuals participated in the 1 ½ hour Train the Trainer program. Additionally, 111 participants of the Ambassador and Recreation Team Training participated in the Disability Awareness and Inclusion workshops.

County Impact:

Kerr County: mini-grant funds are being used to help fund after-school programs at the Salvation Army in Kerrville. Ten BCI team members have presented 4-H programs focusing on character education with 54 youth during monthly meetings. Kerr County has gained three new 4-H members as a direct result of their intervention program. Kerr County BCI team also has adopted the Any Baby Can project and provides assistance with their social events and will sponsor a fishing derby this summer for clients.

Collin County: The BCI team has presented Disability Awareness and Inclusion Programs with Collin County 4-H Council, Collin County Adult Leaders Association, District IV Leaders College, Collin County 4-H and Youth Development Committee and McKinney ISD for a total of 33 youth and 78 adults; 6 persons with disabilities participated in the programs.

Montgomery County: The BCI team conducted an inclusion training with the Montgomery County 4-H Council, 15 youth and 3 adults. A second workshop was conducted to prepare volunteers to assist with the Special Olympics program, 50 youth, 3 with learning disabilities and 6 adults participated.

Montgomery County BCI team recruited 26 youth and 4 adults to assist with a Special Olympics event reaching a total of 258 youth and 115 adults with disabilities. Four Montgomery County BCI team members volunteered their support during the Montgomery County Youth Fair Special Education entries, the team also financially supported the program with a donation of \$200.

Travis County: The BCI teams in Travis County have focused efforts on including disabled youth in traditional 4-H club programs. Youth with and without disabilities are partnering in after school and service learning projects that benefit residents of the Baptist Children's Home in Round Rock. Youth from the Texas School for the Blind 4-H Club and the Davis Elementary 4-H Club participate together in a program called "Cultural Rhythms" using drumming exercises. 4-H club members from Brooke Elementary in Travis County are participating with youth from the Special Education program using a "Call and Response" method of drumming from Kenya Masalie's *Rhythm Play* book. Youth with and without disabilities have learned a great deal about one another through this activity. 15 Peredez Elementary 4-H Club members in Travis County have partnered with 18 disabled youth from the Galindo Elementary Life Skill's Class in stepping and drumming programs.

Building Community Inclusion Outcomes, State-wide:

- 50 4-H Youth participated in BCI educational efforts
- 570 Non 4-H Youth participated in BCI programs conducted by County Governance teams
- 14 4-H Adult volunteers participated in BCI educational programs
- 24 Non 4-H Adults participated in BCI programs conducted by County Governance teams
- 363 youth with disabilities participated in BCI educational programs and activities
- 1030 youth without disabilities participated in BCI educational programs and activities
- 120 adults with disabilities participated in BCI educational programs and activities
- 31 adults without disabilities participated in BCI educational programs and activities

Mission Possible Camp Outcomes:

- Leadership Inclusion Camp held June 1-3, 2005 at the Texas 4-H Center.
- 11 4-H members served as Camp Mentors and participated in a day-long training on inclusion, disabilities and basic first aid and CPR. Mentors were housed with campers and provided assistance as needed. Eight summer staff were involved in providing educational experiences.
- 18 youth with disabilities participated in Mission Possible. Camp activities included swimming, canoeing, archery, challenge course activities, active games, dances, arts and crafts and Native American cultural education.
- Youth with and without disabilities participated together in these activities and were housed in the dorms together.