



**NOMINATION FOR
Chapter Distinguished Service Recognition– Individual
is Being Nominated For**

Epsilon Sigma Phi, Alpha Zeta Chapter – Texas

Nominee's Name: Amy Ressler

Title: County Extension Agent- Family & Consumer Sciences – Montgomery County

Address: 9020 Airport Road

City, State Zip: Conroe, Texas 77303

E-Mail: a-ressler@tamu.edu

Phone Number: (936) 539-7822

Year Initiated into ESP: 1999

Position and Dates of Extension Employment: County Extension Agent-Family & Consumer Sciences, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Montgomery County, November 19, 2012 – present-*County Extension Agent – Family & Consumer Sciences, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Burleson County, Feb. 2006 – 1012 *Extension Program Specialist, (Program Coordinator/Program Director) - Better Living for Texans, Texas Cooperative Extension Apr 2001- Feb 2006; *County Extension Agent- Family & Consumer Sciences, Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Bowie County, Sep 1998- Mar 2001;*County Extension Agent - Family & Consumer Sciences, Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Stephens County, Nov 1996-Aug 1998; *Assistant County Extension Agent - Family & Consumer Sciences, Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Hale County, Jun 1993-Oct 1996

Education: *Master of Science, Interdisciplinary Studies (concentration in Counseling/Psychology, Business, and Education) Texas A&M University- Texarkana, College of Arts & Sciences; Texarkana, Texas; Degree received May 2000; *Bachelor of Science, Human Development/Family Studies with specialization in Family Studies; Minor in Communication Studies; Texas Tech University, College of Human Sciences, Lubbock, Texas; Degree received May 1993 **Certifications:** *Food Protection Management Instructor, 1997 & 2010; * Family Wellness Instructor 2010; *Child Passenger Safety Technician, 1999; *Breastfeeding Educator, 1994

Outstanding Professional Accomplishments: *****Awards:** *Communicator Award – Educational Package/Team, TAE4HA, 2010; *Search for Excellence in 4-H and Youth, TCAAA, team award with co-worker Cullen D. Tittle, 2nd Place, 2009; *Excellence in 4-H Programming, Texas AgriLife Extension, 2008; *Excellence in FCS programming, Texas AgriLife Extension, 2008; *"Certificate of Appreciation", Burleson County Commissioners Court, 2008; *Vice Chancellors Award of Excellence in Diversity, 2003; *Early Career Achievement Award, Epsilon Sigma Phi 2001; *Educational Package Award, TEAFCS, 2000; *Educational Piece Award, TAE4HA, 2000; *"Certificate of Appreciation", Stephens County Commissioner's Court, 1998; *"Appreciation Plaque/Wall Clock", Stephens County 4-H and Adult Leaders, 1998; *"Diversity Award- NEW Project Team", Texas Assn of Extension Home Economists /TEAFCS 1996; *"Diversity Award- NEW Project Team", NEAFCS, Southern Region 2nd place, National 2nd place, 1996; *"General Foods Consumer Media Grant" NEW Project, TAEHE/TEAFCS, 1995; *"General Foods Consumer Media Grant" NEW Project, NAEHE/NEAFCS, 1995; *****Professional Associations:***Member of TEAFCS and D9EAFCS, served as district director 2009-2011, alternate director 2007-2009; Member of TEAFCS and D9EAFCS, served on state meeting planning committee 2010-2011; Member of ESP; *****District and State Committees:** *Co-Chair of District 9 4-H Food Challenge Committee, 2010-present; Co-Chair of District 9 4-H Fashion Show committee, 2008-2010; Member of South Region FCS Advisory Committee, 2008-2011; Member of FCS 101 development committee, 2009; Member of State Accountability Committee 2003-2005; Member of State Extension Spirit Committee 2001-2006

Outstanding Programmatic Accomplishments: After eight years as a county agent serving three different counties, and prior to moving to Burleson County, Amy provided leadership to the Better Living for Texans as Program Director, April 2001-February 2006 where she managed a multi-million dollar federal contract project involving over 200 counties providing nutrition education to food stamp recipients and low income families. She composed quarterly and annual reports for the funding agency as well Extension administration. She provided oversight of billing procedures and developed detailed documentation procedures in response to ongoing reviews by the funding agency. She supervised 6 staff members and directed HR procedures for over 70 other staff employed in program. Her job included completion of yearly proposal plans as well as writing and editing yearly operating manuals. She often conducted information and interpretation presentations about the program and procedures for agents, assistants, administrators, and the funding agency. She also maintained liaison with contractor, navigating the program through

difficult times. Then, wishing to return to her roots in county based programming, Amy returned to a county agent position as the CEA-FCS in Burleson County in February of 2006. Since that time, she has had success in managing a diverse program with major responsibilities, not only in Family and Consumer Sciences, including active EEA groups, but also in 4-H and Youth Development (Burleson County is a two agent county). Highlights of her accomplishments follow. ***Perhaps one of the most unique and significant accomplishments for Amy is in the **Community Theater** project. The county judge asked Amy to begin a community theater group. And, since she believed it would work well with Extension programming, she began the process to organize a group in December 2006. Since then, thirteen productions/shows involving 90 actors and a cumulative total of approximately 14,000 people attending. As a result an estimated \$280,000 has been invested in this community development venture. In addition, \$10,000+ has been donated to the theater in the form of memberships, and \$8,000 in special fundraising efforts. Ten volunteers have served on the Board of Trustees over the past 5 years and another 45 volunteers have helped with various aspects of the productions (contributions other than acting). In addition to the 50 founding members, another 40 have supported the theater with annual membership. Amy has personally served as the chief director for six shows, and acted in four others, ran tech for another, and managed publicity and produced playbills for all of them. Each of the playbills has included basic information about Texas AgriLife Extension Service and its educational role in the county. Many productions included two or more family members participating together and attendance at the shows included several family groups and friends attending together, both of which contribute to family and youth development. Amy's involvement has evolved over the past five years from being the primary driving force for each of the early productions to providing peripheral support and advice for the more recent production as volunteers take on more active roles in keeping the theater group going. ***Another particularly innovative project Amy has enacted is the **Youth Leadership and Life Skills (YLLS) Project** which was first implemented in 2008 with the assistance of the Burleson County Youth Board. Amy worked with the Youth Board, and co-worker, to design and execute the project. Resources utilized included the 4-H "Putting the Pieces Together" curriculum, and the book/workbook from "Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens" by Sean Covey. Each session, held on a monthly basis, included a hands-on activity from "Pieces" and guest speakers each from a unique background and perspective focusing on one of the "Seven Habits" and/or the leadership traits highlighted in "Pieces". A service project was incorporated into the course of study. Participants worked together, to clean a local cemetery and a clean-up and repair work at the home of an elderly lady. Funding was secured for the program through a volunteer improvement grant from ExxonMobil Corporation. Forty one participants were trained in the program. ***Amy conducts traditional FCS banner programming including **Do Well Be Well (DWBW) with diabetes**. Partnering with Family Nurse Practitioner, Martha Hare, 3 classes were offered with a total of 38 participants attending. Estimated economic impact of this small group totaled \$1,135,756. Follow-up surveys indicated significant improvements as a result of attending the classes including a better overall understanding of factors effecting diabetes, increased behaviors related to diabetes control, and an average reduction of 0.74 Hemoglobin A1c results ***Other FCS related program accomplishments: **Women's Forum** which is an educational event with a variety of topics that develop self-esteem and confidence, as well as increase the knowledge and skill base. Amy works with a committee of 12-15 people that meet to organize the event including a total of nearly \$2,000 of in-kind donations each year. The participants rate the forum on a 4 point scale, yearly results show a positive impact: 2011=3.8, 2010=3.5, 2009=3.6, 2008=3.41, and 2007=3.52 averages for all sessions, the lunch, and the keynote speaker combined. ***And, the **Forever Young Committee Senior Recognition Event** is another annual highlight. Each year the committee secures sponsorship in total of \$400 to cover costs. For each recognition event, Amy prepares a document highlighting the accomplishments of each of the nominees for the Senior Recognition. These ensure all of the nominees, as well as the nominators, receive adequate note of accomplishment and are not overlooked in the shadow of the "winners." Friends and families are invited to a reception to celebrate with the nominees. ***In addition, Amy continues effectively managing active base programs such as the **4-H** program, **Better Living for Texans** nutrition education and **Extension Education Association** ***Involvement in Multi-county collaborations include the Brazos County **Pizza Ranch**, and the Burleson, Grimes, and Lee **Child Care Conference**. *****Support Statement (approximately 75 words):** Amy Ressler has had a rewarding career in Extension serving in five counties and a state program. Her experiences over the years have enabled her to design and implement innovative programming such as Community Theater and youth leadership training, preserve strong county specific events including Women's Forum and Senior Recognition, and maintain strong base programming efforts including 4-H, EEA, and multi-county activities.