



Keeping you connected

xtension cord

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Arkansas 4-H awards college scholarships, sponsorships to outstanding youth

Years of detailed project work, community service and leadership efforts have paid off for 32 4-H members in the form of college scholarships.

The Arkansas 4-H Foundation recently awarded \$24,000 in college scholarships to youth across Arkansas. Amounts ranged from \$500 to \$8,000.

“These scholarships directly help our 4-H members continue to excel,” John Thomas, managing director of the Arkansas 4-H Foundation, said. “These would not be possible without generous donors, many of whom are former 4-H members who want to pay it forward for future generations.”

The Arkansas 4-H Foundation has awarded more than \$170,000 to 4-H members this year, enabling them to attend summer camps and leadership and citizenship trainings. The foundation also provides sponsorships for more than 40 students with winning record books to attend National 4-H Congress in Atlanta each year, a trip valued at \$1,500 per person.

Record books reflect each student’s achievements in leadership, community service and work in their chosen projects. 4-H offers more than 70 projects spanning the arts and humanities, healthy living, civil engagement, animal and plant sciences, engineering and technology. ■



Thank you to all the retirees who contributed to the 4-H scholarships!

Read the full article and view the entire list of scholarship recipients [here](#).

THE INSIDE STORIES

Washington County teen wins 4-H Governor's Award

Arkansas-grown berries used in blackberry beer pilot project

Message from the director

Dinner at the Vines to benefit 4-H

Scholarship donations

New retirees

2

Message from the director



Dr. Bob Scott

I have really enjoyed sitting in on a few of the county interpretive events this past month. It is good to know that our relationships with county governments and residents, in general, have remained strong throughout the pandemic. We are seeing progress towards rebuilding in some program areas throughout the state and growth in others.

In addition to seeing Extension in action at the local level, I enjoyed attending the Program Leadership Network meeting in Ft. Worth. This is a collaborative meeting to provide Extension folks from all program areas and support groups and from across the southern region (34 universities in all) a chance to meet and discuss issues and get updates from National 4-H, NIFA, and other groups. Arkansas Extension was well represented. Positive things are happening at many of our sister land-grant universities that have the potential to help us in Arkansas.

Interviews, seminars, and interviews! The Little Rock State Office has been very busy this past month interviewing candidates for several open specialist positions. In addition to our Assistant Vice President – 4-H position, we have 11 faculty positions in various stages of being filled. The good news is that we have had some great candidates across the board for these positions. I am excited about the new opportunities that come along with an influx of new faculty and staff and the new ideas and directions that follow!

Employee scholarships and 4-H scholarships are supported by Extension retirees. This issue of the Extension Cord is full of the great things that we can do with these gifts. We are grateful for your continued support of the Cooperative Extension Service and our efforts. One of my favorite brags as Director is to talk about how our former employees choose to support us with their time, their talents and their gifts! Not many organizations can say this. Not many jobs are like Extension. ■

Washington County teen wins Arkansas 4-H Governor's Award

Janna Morse's service to others took root in Washington County more than a decade ago and has since expanded far beyond Arkansas' borders. The West Fork teen received the 2022 Arkansas 4-H Governor's Award, the highest honor an Arkansas 4-H member can receive.

Gov. Asa Hutchinson announced Morse, 18, as the winner on July 27 in a recorded message played during the Arkansas 4-H Awards of Excellence ceremony at the University of Arkansas, where more than 300 4-H members from across the state competed in statewide events.

"4-H has given me a foundation of confidence and made me an avid goal-setter," she said.

Learn more about Morse and read the full article [here](#). ■



Janna Morse, center in white jacket, was named the 2022 Arkansas Governor's Award winner in a ceremony July 27, 2022, in Fayetteville. The award is highest given in the Arkansas 4-H program. From left to right: John Thomas, managing director of the Arkansas 4-H Foundation, Deacue Fields, vice president of agriculture for the UA System Division of Agriculture; Darlene Baker, 4-H Foundation Board member; Morse; Angie Freel, director of Arkansas 4-H; and Bob Scott, extension director.

Arkansas-grown berries used in Arkansas blackberry beer pilot project



Amanda Philyaw Perez, extension associate professor of food systems and food safety specialist; Theron Cash, co-founder of Stone's Throw Brewing; and David Hill, extension program associate for food systems and food safety enjoy the fruits of their labor.

For blackberry lovers, the sweet, tart fruit is the star of many summer dishes. One Arkansas blackberry producer, Ritter Farms, teamed up with the UA System Division of Agriculture, Arkansas Brewer's

Guild and Stone's Throw Brewing to create a flavorful batch of blackberry beer, made with berries bred through the UA System blackberry breeding program and grown in Arkansas. Blackberry – and beer – fans sampled the results at a tasting on Friday, July 22.

Attendees tried beer made in one of two ways: one with whole, fresh blackberries and the other with juice and puree from fresh blackberries. The blackberry juice and puree were processed at the Division of Agriculture's Share Grounds at Three County Fairgrounds in McCrory. The program connects Arkansas growers and food entrepreneurs with the technical assistance

and infrastructure needed to start or scale-up food businesses.

Amanda Philyaw Perez, extension associate professor of food systems and food safety specialist, said Ritter Farms in Judsonia primarily sells their blackberries for wholesale, fresh markets. Ritter Farms estimates that each summer they have more than 200,000 pounds of excess blackberries that cannot be sold to these markets.

In an effort to use these excess berries and create a value-added food product, Ritter Farms is working with the UA System and Stone's Throw Brewing to evaluate the use of these Arkansas-grown blackberries for beer production. Philyaw Perez said she hopes this pilot project will help expand blackberry beer production in breweries around the state, as the brewing industry has shown to be a valuable source of support for local food systems in other states.

"It's worked in other communities around the country," Philyaw Perez said. "Where the beer flows, the food, culture, art, entertainment, local agriculture and economic development follow."

Read the full story [here](#). ■

Arkansas 4-H Foundation to host Dinner at the Vines event to benefit 4-H

The C.A. Vines Center and the Arkansas 4-H Foundation will host the second annual Dinner at the Vines event Tuesday, Sept. 27, at the C.A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center — complete with garden party, lakeside dinner, silent and live auctions and entertainment. Proceeds benefit Arkansas 4-H, the state's largest youth development program.

"We hope Dinner at the Vines will become our signature fundraising event for the Arkansas 4-H Foundation," John Thomas, the foundation's managing director, said. "This is also a great opportunity for people to come and see what this beautiful place is all about and what a great treasure the center is for our state."

The event begins at 5 p.m. at the Arkansas 4-H Center, located at 1 Four H Way in Little Rock. Tickets are \$125 each, or \$700 for a table for six. Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.arkansas4hfoundation.org/>

The event kicks off with appetizers and libations in the center's teaching garden. Master Gardeners, who maintain the garden, will provide tours and answer questions about the native plants and in the garden.

Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. lakeside, near the center's rose garden, and will feature locally sourced and seasonal foods. Kordsmeier Music, a music group comprised of former 4-H members, will provide entertainment. ■

September Birthdays

Alberta James - Sept. 1
Diana Baker - Sept. 4
Jim Denton - Sept. 4
Vickie Huddleston - Sept. 4
Johnnie Younger - Sept. 5
Bob Blake - Sept. 6
Michael Moss - Sept. 7
Barbara Singleton - Sept. 8
Carol Sanders - Sept. 8
Venetta Rice - Sept. 9
Jerry Wooley - Sept. 9

Catherine Grills - Sept. 12
Lee Hunter - Sept. 12
Raymond Benz - Sept. 16
Joe Paul Stuart - Sept. 16
Charles Albritton - Sept. 17
Janet Slate - Sept. 17
Irene Carlock - Sept. 18
Steven Simpson - Sept. 18
June Williams - Sept. 21
Frank Jones - Sept. 21
Gloria Mayhugh - Sept. 21

Belinda Weaver - Sept. 21
Sherry Ream - Sept. 22
LeVeda Tate - Sept. 22
Donna Rothberg - Sept. 23
Stephen Vann - Sept. 27
William Dodgen - Sept. 28
Henry Rice - Sept. 28
Don Plunkett - Sept. 28
Karen Ballard - Sept. 28
Bettie Wilson - Sept. 30

Scholarship donations

The following gifts were recently received to support professional development opportunities for faculty and staff of the Cooperative Extension Service.

CES Retiree Scholarship

Denise Roulhac

In memory of Anne Sortor

Martha Ray Sartor

Portia Short

In memory of Margaret Alexander

Honorary or memorial donations should be forwarded to the Development Office, ATTN: Brian Helms, Cooperative Extension Service, 2301 South University Ave., Little Rock, AR 72204. If joint recognition is desired, please indicate. To ensure proper notification is sent, please also include in whose honor or memory the gift is made and the mailing address of the person to receive the notification. ■

Welcome new retirees!

Debbie Baker

Debbie Baker began her career with Cooperative Extension in June of 2004. She retired as a county extension agent – family and consumer science, Clay County on July 1, 2022. Debbie retired with 18 years of service.

Roxie Jones

Roxie Jones began her career with Cooperative Extension in February of 1995. She retired as the administrative specialist III for Little River County on July 1, 2022. Roxie retired with 27 years of service.

Mary Poling

Mary Poling began her career with Cooperative Extension in April 2015. She retired as the coordinator of interactive communication in the Little Rock State Office on June 16, 2022. Mary retired with 7 years of service.

Martha Ray Sartor

Martha Ray Sartor began her career with Cooperative Extension in September of 2007. She retired as the associate vice president for 4-H and family & consumer science on July 6, 2022. Martha Ray retired with 14 years of service.

Willie Booker, Jr. Passes

Willie Booker, Jr., age 98, of Hamburg passed away on July 29th at his home. Willie retired in 1995 as an extension horticultural specialist. Funeral services were held Friday, Aug. 5 at Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture offers all its Extension and Research programs and services without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.