

MEET THE STATE 4-H SPECIALISTS | CONTINUED

What she thinks makes 4-H special, is that the 4-H community is like a big family. She says,

"Yes, there are competitions but at the end of the day, a 4-H'er will always help out another 4-H'er when called upon."



Cara Harbison is the Indiana 4-H Database Coordinator. Cara grew up in Hendricks County and was a 10 year 4-H member in Morgan County, where she showed hogs, cattle, and sheep. She was also a 4-H Ambassador in her county. Cara is a 5th generation 4-H member, and her family has always been actively involved in 4-H. Growing up on her family farm led Cara to pursue a B.S. in Animal Science from Purdue University.

As the Indiana 4-H Database Coordinator, Cara provides assistance for 4-H enrollment through 4-H Online and fair enrollment through Fair Entry. She is responsible for processing enrollment, but also providing training for 4-H Online/Fair Entry through webinars. Cara enjoys troubleshooting the database with Extension Educators, she says, "When I help someone and it really impacts them, it makes my day."

Being a 10 year 4-H member and now working for the Indiana 4-H program, Cara thinks what makes 4-H so special is that

the culture is so accepting and welcoming.

"4-H gives youth a way to prepare for college and the real world, but also teaches youth to belong and to contribute to their community."



Alexis Maschinot is the 4-H Plant and Environmental Science Extension Specialist on the Indiana 4-H staff. Alexis is originally from northern Kentucky, where she received her B.S. in Biological Science from Northern Kentucky University. While attending NKU, Alexis was a student researcher and also an educator for the Ohio River STEM Institute. Her role as an educator inspired her and sparked passion for both education and science.

After graduating from NKU, Alexis moved to Connecticut where she was a high school science instructor for two and a half years. During this time, she also earned a Master's degree from Eastern Connecticut University in Secondary Biological Education.

When Alexis' husband secured at position at Purdue, Alexis came across the job posting for the Indiana 4-H Plant and Environmental Science Extension Specialist position and immediately applied. This position would allow for her to combine her passion for both education and science, making it a perfect fit!

Prior to joining the Indiana 4-H staff, Alexis was not involved in 4-H and knew very little about the program. What Alexis was amazed to find out about 4-H was the number of opportunities that are provided to youth – where they are able to take inventory of their own interests and skills then use the 4-H program to build upon those skills to prepare them for future careers.

"I believe we really do live up to our motto, 4-H truly does make the best better", she says.

One thing that Alexis appreciates about 4-H is that the youth are in control, adults do not make choices for them, and the program allows them to build skills (with the help of an adult) in a safe and nurturing environment. "Making a mistake in 4-H is not a bad thing. There are no bad grades in 4-H to be afraid of, so youth feel more comfortable making mistakes and learning from them in the 4-H program."

Alexis' role on the Indiana 4-H staff allows her to develop new opportunities for youth in Plant and Environmental sciences as well as promoting environmental education. She also has the opportunity to develop relationships with faculty members and industry leaders – and bring those experts to youth across the state. What Alexis is currently excited about working on is a Plant Science and Crop curriculum which will be focused on sustainability.

Alexis says her favorite part about her role is being able to make a difference in the lives of 4-H members and inspiring them to pursue their dreams. "I'm able to show youth career options in plant and environmental sciences that they may not have otherwise known existed."

MEET THE STATE 4-H SPECIALISTS | CONTINUED



Courtney Stierwalt, the Indiana 4-H Animal Science Extension Specialist, grew up in Morgan County where she was a 10 year 4-H member. Courtney and her family have always been highly involved with 4-H. Courtney grew up on a cattle farm and her grandparents were dairy farmers.

After high school, Courtney attended Purdue University, majoring in Ag Communications with an emphasis in Animal Science. She fondly remembers receiving an Indiana 4-H Foundation scholarship which helped her pay for tuition at Purdue.

After graduating from Purdue, Courtney worked for Novus International as a territory manager for Swine Nutrition. This position allowed her the ability to travel a lot, and she enjoyed working with lots of people. However, the traveling started to wear her down so when she saw a position open in Fountain County for a 4-H and Ag and Natural Resources Extension Educator, she jumped at the chance to get involved with 4-H again.

Courtney worked in Fountain County for 6 years. Her proudest moment as a 4-H staff member was seeing her first county fair through, and to see the 4-H members experience what she had as a 4-H member herself.

"There is an emphasis on competition, but the experience and people the

youth meet are what really matters. So to step back and see it in action was amazing."

In her role as Indiana 4-H Animal Science Extension Specialist, Courtney develops Animal Science based programming. She is also a great resource for county Extension staff, and provides training through programs like YQCA (Youth for the Quality Care of Animals) and Teens as Teachers – Biosecurity team.

Courtney's favorite part of her role is getting to work with youth through a program that impacted her life so much. Courtney's grandmother was a 4-H leader in Morgan County for 50 years, which inspired Courtney to stay involved in 4-H as a career. "My grandma taught me that 4-H is not about financial ability, it's not about luck...it's about giving your all. I attribute my passion for 4-H to her."

Courtney's mother was also an Extension Educator, and her summers were always based around 4-H projects. Courtney met her husband in Morgan County 4-H as well. "4-H has led my life", she says.

Courtney thinks that what makes 4-H so special is that there is something for everyone. "It'd be hard to find another program that incorporates all interests like 4-H does." What 4-H also has over other youth-serving organizations is a large group of passionate volunteers who are dedicated to building skills in youth and expanding their knowledge beyond the local level.

Courtney loves the 4-H program because the adults who volunteer truly care about the youth in the program. They are able to make such a positive difference in the lives of the youth they work with. Many volunteers never realize what a big impact they have on the lives of 4-H members.

Save the Date

JOIN US FOR OUR

2019 Annual Meeting & Day of Service

APRIL 26TH, 2019

GLEANERS FOOD BANK OF INDIANA

MEETING 10:00 AM

LUNCH 11:30 AM

SERVICE PROJECT 12:30 PM

Please join us in pledging our hands to larger service and join us in April. Check your mailbox for an invitation or call (765) 494-8483 for more details.

INDIANA 4-H FOUNDATION

NEWS

SPRING 2019

CLOVER GAMING CONNECTION



Clover Gaming Connection (CGC) is an experience that fosters critical thinking, creativity, competition and collaboration which inspires confidence and empowers youth to design their gaming (board, card and/or video) ideas - unlike any other learning experience available to youth today.

The CGC team consists of Arin Weidner (Indiana 4-H Technology Integration Extension Specialist), Kathleen Bohde (4-H Extension Educator, Hamilton County), and Malea Huffman (4-H Extension Educator, Greene County). The story of how CGC came to be is quite interesting. Both Malea and Kathleen had contacted Arin separately about gaming initiatives. They had each started 4-H gaming clubs in their counties and needed to discuss how to evaluate each of their programs. Little did the two know that Arin had been keeping a "dream book" of interesting program ideas, and gaming had always been something

she wanted 4-H to get involved in. So the trio set out to create a 4-H gaming program together.

After drawing out program ideas on napkins at the Indiana State Fair, the CGC team learned about Purdue Extension Startup, a process for Purdue Extension professionals to bring new, innovative ideas to Purdue Extension to solve some of the most significant challenges in our state and receive funding to make the ideas real. The workshop took their ideas to a new level, allowing them to not only have guidance in developing the program and "dreaming big", but also providing funding for the initiative.

Why gaming? Games are a universal form of recreation enjoyed by all ages, across the world. However, it is also commonly perceived as merely entertainment, and in some cases - a distracting activity. Clover Gaming Connection aims to challenge how games are traditionally viewed and leverage this engaging platform to make games go beyond entertainment.

The CGC team is looking for ways to connect gaming (board, card and/or video), a passion of youth that they work with, to careers and opportunities that exist in the current and future workforce. Gaming is a reality that many youth thrive in and it can positively impact their future. Games are

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Indiana 4-H Foundation, Inc.
Christy Denault, President
William Viar, Vice President
Gerald Powell, Treasurer
Sean Sharma, Secretary
Shelly Bingle, Executive Director

The Indiana 4-H Foundation provides resources that give the opportunity for all Indiana youth to develop life skills that benefit their communities.

Partnered with:
Purdue Extension Specialists and county-based Extension Educators who deliver 4-H youth development educational programs to over 200,000 Indiana youth.

Purdue Extension 4-H Youth Development Program
Dr. Jason Henderson, Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Development and Director of Extension

Dr. Renée McKee, Assistant Director of Purdue Extension & Indiana State 4-H Program Leader

INDIANA 4-H FOUNDATION

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a prime environment in which youth can learn, socialize, and develop life skills.

Why 4-H? A survey was sent to 2017-2018 program year 4-H families with youth in grades 8-12, who participated in projects that align with the interdisciplinary skills required in the game industry and diversity of skills developed in current project areas. Over 200 4-H families responded and here is what some of them shared.

"My son wants to work with computers and design his own software. So, this would

be awesome for him to understand career opportunities in the field and couple it with real world experience."

"[My child] has been trying to do something on their own, but it is difficult without guidance like the webinars, workshops or some type of curriculum."

One of the pilot workshops offered this past December (Experience 4-H @ Purdue: Science of Games) filled in a just a few days, with a wait list that just kept growing. Both the youth feedback and parent feedback of those who attended is encouraging as well as helpful in developing this program:

"It is interesting to be able to think about and relate what you learn while you are playing the game." – Science of Games participant

"I love that it can tie learning into their love of games. My boys love to engineer things

and learn how everything works. So I'm sure this will fall right into that, impacting the way they look at games" Science of Games parent

"I hope it will encourage her to continue her engineering interest" - Science of Games parent.

The CGC team believes gaming and game design is a way to develop programming that excites youth and targets the key skills they need to thrive. We want to deliver experiences that encourage innovation, logic, coding, cooperation and career exploration amongst many other skills.

Games engage players to actively investigate game environment, develop problem-solving strategies, and create real-time strategy that support skills necessary for STEM careers.

To learn more about Clover Gaming Connection visit purdue.ag/CloverGamingConnection

4-H provided him the opportunities to speak in front of other people, work with other youth in counties and 4-H clubs across the state, and hold leadership positions. Bob was the President of his Junior Leader Council and this provided his first opportunity to run a meeting. Bob's experiences in 4-H helped him not only in college, but also in the military and throughout his life insurance career.

Some of Bob's favorite 4-H memories include sleeping in the barn with his 4-H animals at the Tippecanoe County

fairgrounds, staying up all night and having water fights. Without 4-H in his life, Bob says, "I wouldn't have had any experience in public speaking. Through 4-H, I was able to meet a lot of people throughout my county which helped me a lot in life at that time. Without 4-H, I wouldn't have any of those lifelong friendships."

In 2014, Bob and Maurine made a significant gift to the Indiana 4-H Foundation to start a scholarship endowment. This endowment provides for at least one scholarship of no less than \$500 annually. The Robert E.

and Maurine K. Anderson 4-H Scholarship is available to any 10 year 4-H members who come from a single-parent household. Since the scholarship endowment was established, five scholarships have been awarded to deserving youth.

Bob and Maurine have also become members of the Forever 4-H Legacy Society, by making provisions for a planned gift to the Indiana 4-H Foundation.

"Life has been really good to us and we try to give it back."

EXTENSION EDUCATOR FEATURE | HEATHER VONDIELINGEN



my school, including faculty representative to the school board and an accreditation facilitator for curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Teaching in a predominately Chinese American school instilled in me a love of working with different cultures.

In June of 2015, I graduated from Concordia University Irvine with a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership and Administration. I credit my time in 4-H (especially Junior Leaders) for cultivating my leadership skills and encouraging me to pursue leadership opportunities within the field of education. In my spare time I am always looking for new adventures, whether that means traveling the world, signing up for another race (half marathons are my favorite distance), or learning more about beef cows and farming from my husband, Grant VonDielingen.

I got involved in 4-H as a member because it was a strong family tradition! Some of my favorite projects were: sewing, cake decorating, foods, scrap booking, and gift wrapping. One of my favorite memories as a 4-H member was staying up all night with my mom and Nana the night before sewing projects were due. I was an active member of The Leftovers 4-H Club and the

Jackson County 4-H Junior Leaders. One of my former 4-H club leaders, Sally Acton, is still a 4-H Leader. It is fun to work with Sally in my role as the 4-H Educator now.

In my role as 4-H Extension Educator, I work to recruit, train, and retain 4-H volunteers to help carry out educational programming with the youth of Jackson County. At the heart of my job is building relationships with community members and 4-H supporters. In 2018, Jackson County had 768 4-H members and 178 adult 4-H volunteers. I enjoy working with all of our wonderful 4-H members, volunteers, and families to move our program forward.

The programs I am most excited about in my county right now are our Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) initiatives. I have a dedicated group of 4-H volunteers leading a variety of STEM SPARK Clubs. They recently finished a month-long Computer Coding SPARK Club using resources from the 4-H National Youth Science Day experiment, Code Your World. This summer, we are offering a week-long LEGO Robotics Camp, led by a 4-H volunteer who is an engineering professor at Purdue Polytechnic. We are on our way to

After graduating from college I moved to San Francisco, California to teach 2nd grade at West Portal Lutheran School for 7.5 years. I held various leadership roles at

reaching capacity with our LEGO Camp and it is still three months away! These STEM initiatives are preparing youth for the careers of the future.

My proudest achievement as a 4-H Educator has been helping a group of 4-H volunteers start a new After school 4-H Club at Medora Elementary School. Medora has the highest poverty rate in Jackson County at 25.6% with a total population of only 689 residents. I collaborated with Medora's principal, after school coordinator, and 4-H volunteers to apply for a grant from our local Community Foundation. In 2017, a \$3,000.00 grant from the Owen-Carr Township Community Fund was awarded to the school system to fund 4-H program fees, project materials, snacks, meeting materials, etc. for the youth in the Medora Makers After school 4-H Club. The club is in its second year and is still going strong.

My first three years of Extension Education has been an amazing adventure and I

cannot wait to see what is in store for the future. I have a passion for education and *"Making the Best Better!"*

4-H encompasses my entire philosophy of education, which has hands on learning. We do not simply tell youth what they need to know, we ask them to go out there and "Learn by Doing." At the heart of every 4-H experience is the Experiential Learning Model. We ask youth to experience, share, process, generalize, and then apply what they have learned. 4-H is unique in that we ask youth to take the leadership roles of running the organization. This is accomplished through youth and adult partnerships, meaning youth and adults work together to accomplish their club's goals.

As the new Extension Educator representative on the Indiana 4-H Foundation Board of Directors, I am excited to help raise funds for the Indiana 4-H Program. I believe people should

MEET THE STATE 4-H SPECIALISTS



Danielle Sands, the 4-H Engineering and Technology Extension Specialist, grew up in Newton County where she was a 10 year 4-H member. Danielle earned a B.S. in Criminal Justice and Psychology before earning her Master's in Public Administration.

As the 4-H Engineering and Technology Extension Specialist, Danielle has the opportunity to create and enhance 4-H STEM programming throughout the state including: fluid power, robotics, electric, computer science and drones. Besides being a resource for programming, Danielle feels her biggest role is helping Extension Educators through the process of adopting STEM programs. "I like to be the Extension Educators' cheerleader", she says,

"I get to be the person who is helping Extension Educators get excited about a new program, but also providing resources at the state level and helping them to find connections and resources within their own counties to help sustain the program."

give back to the 4-H Program through gifts to the Foundation because it supports educational programming throughout the state of Indiana. The Foundation is a major supporter of state-wide trips like 4-H Round Up, State Junior Leader Conference, 4-H Academy at Purdue, and the Teens as Teachers Conference, just to name a few. Experiences like these get youth out of their counties to meet like-minded 4-H members from across Indiana. It expands their horizon and perspective on the world when we are able to give them educational opportunities that take them out of their comfort zones.

The Indiana 4-H Foundation brings resources to local communities as well, allowing counties to expand educational programming that might not otherwise be possible. In Jackson County, we have been able to host week-long LEGO Robotics Camps and multiple STEM initiatives, thanks to the work of the Indiana 4-H Foundation in securing grants from Duke Energy. The Indiana 4-H Foundation makes a local impact in all 92 counties.

Danielle places a lot of emphasis on 4-H club leaders, as her own club leaders growing up had such an impact on her and her decision to stick with the 4-H program. A highlight of Danielle's 4-H career was having the opportunity to honor a leader in Newton County, Charlie Dyer, a couple of years ago at the fair. "Charlie is the kind of person who is always willing to help wherever he is needed, and seeing his reaction and surprise at being honored was so special for me."

What Danielle wants everyone to know about 4-H is that it's not about the livestock, it's not about winning, and it's not just about the ribbons. 4-H is about the skills that members develop, and the social connections that they are able to make.

DONOR FEATURE | BOB AND MAURINE ANDERSON



Robert Anderson and his wife Maurine have been avid supporters of 4-H for nearly 30 years. Bob grew up on a dairy farm outside of West Lafayette while Maurine grew up in town. Bob and Maurine met in a church youth group as teenagers. Bob was a 10 year 4-H member in Tippecanoe County, and he fondly remembers getting his first 4-H hog from Linwood Farms at Purdue. Bob continued to work on the family dairy farm all the way through college while studying at Purdue.

After college, Bob joined the Army and was stationed for two years in Missouri, where he interviewed recruits for their job placement. Dave Pfendler at Purdue helped Bob get his first job after the Army as the County Extension Educator in Marion County - which at the time had more 4-H Club kids than any other county in the country. Bob held this position from 1956 to 1959.

Bob moved from Extension to Equitable Life Insurance of New York, where he worked for forty-two years. While working in the insurance business, Bob and Maurine had three daughters, Sara, Gretchen, and Charlotte, who were all 10 year 4-H members. During this time, they moved from Indianapolis to Noblesville when Bob and Maurine purchased 120 acres of farm land in Hamilton County.

Bob and Maurine were able to farm on the

side throughout their lives, even as Bob was very active in the insurance industry. The Anderson family grew corn, soybeans, and wheat, as well as raising Angus cattle. As the Noblesville area started to boom, a developer purchased much of the family's farm land which Bob says was a "great investment". Bob and Maurine then started buying and selling farms – a total of 9 different farms.

Bob and Maurine chose to give back to the charities that helped them when they were younger and to the organizations that helped them to become who they are now and helped them in their careers. The Anderson's' goal has been to focus on a few charities while they are still around to see their investments helping others.

Bob chose to support Indiana 4-H due to its fundamental influence on his life and career.