2020 Annual Awards

2020 ESP Annual Meeting
ESP Awards

- 13 award categories
- Call for nominations come out in August
- Opportunity to recognize your fellow ESP members!!
- Meritorious and Retiree awards are given at the Chapter level and the rest are given at Chapter level and then advance to the National level
2019 National Winner!

Visionary Leadership Award

Mark Platten
Teller County Extension Director
Meritorious Award

Lisa Vernon
Senior Customer Service Representative

“Lisa Vernon is definitely our go to person for nearly everything. Lisa is the first person people see or hear when they contact our office, and they are always greeted with a smile. She keeps tabs on the whole staff juggling our crazy schedules, accepts our last minute, we need it done now requests – all with a smile.”
Meritorious Award

Christie Earixson
Administrative Assistant II

“I have always known Christie to be a dedicated employee, passionate about the success of not only the office, but the people within it; and a stalwart pursuanta of doing the right thing.”

“...she has demonstrated tenacity, patience and caring to our office and has quickly cemented herself as the administrative cornerstone of our operation.”
Retiree Award

Luann Boyer

“Luann has been active in her professional associations and has won numerous awards and recognitions for her efforts. She will go the extra mile to help others without thought of the benefit to herself.”

“Since her retirement, Luann is a life member of ESP and NEAFCS as well as being still a part of AAFCS and a promoter for JOE (Journal of Extension). She finds a way to connect with current extension professionals to encourage them.”
Team Award

Grow & Give Project

Katie Dunker, Statewide Colorado Master Gardener Coordinator
Amy Lentz, Weld County Horticulture Agent
Susan Carter, Tri River Area Horticulture & Natural Resource Agent
Dan Goldhamer, Denver County Horticulture Agent
Amanda McQuade, CSU Western Center Community Foods Program Coordinator
John Stolzle, Jefferson County Horticulture Agent
Cassey Anderson, Adams County Colorado Master Gardener Coordinator
John Murgel, Douglas County Horticulture Agent
Ann Zander, Boulder County FCS Agent
Darrin Parmenter, LaPlata County Director and Horticulture Agent
Team Award

Grow & Give Project

“The Grow & Give Team took the concept of a Modern Victory Garden Project in March and rolled out a comprehensive, statewide horticulture initiative focused on helping people grow food and give locally addressing food insecurity and anticipated supply chain disruption during this unique time during a global pandemic. This work was all-hands-on-deck and includes a trademarked name, weekly marketing, 600 registered gardens across 32 counties, over 35 new video tutorials and resources. Over 40k pounds of donated produce and 10+ media stories.”
Diversity Team Award

Market Days! for Older Adults

Alison O'Connor, PhD, Horticulture Agent, CSU Extension in Larimer County
Sue Schneider, PhD, Family and Community Health Agent, CSU Extension in Larimer County
Amber Webb, M.S., Family and Consumer Science Agent, CSU Extension in Larimer County
Emily Alligood, Larimer County Farmers' Market Manager, CSU Extension in Larimer County
Kali LeMaster, Market Days! project coordinator and Master's graduate student, Colorado State University Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition
Cheryl Noble, Senior Access Points program coordinator
Diversity Team Award

Market Days! for Older Adults

Market Days! for Older Adults was initiated in 2019 to provide vouchers to low-income, older adults to shop at the Larimer County Farmers’ Market. Our goals are to make produce affordable and accessible and decrease social isolation. With Covid, we successfully adapted our program to a delivery model and have provided 843 bags of produce and aging-related resources to 209 homebound seniors. The importance of this project has increased as challenges related to food insecurity, health disparities, and social isolation have become more pronounced for economically disadvantaged older adults.
Early Career Service Award

Susan Carter
Tri River Area Horticulture & Natural Resource Agent

“Susan has a passion for learning, teaching and loves helping people with horticulture and natural resource issues. She values fact-based information and getting the information out. She is very involved in her community, evident by the number of committees and boards she is part of. She can take on things outside her wheel house like being the lead response for Ext. on the Pine Gulch Fire. Susan loves that she can reach out to others in Extension to gather information that is needed by her community and how to best disperse it. And continues to learn new things like captioning a video!”
Mid-Career Service Award

Mark Platten
Teller County Extension Director

“Mark conducted generational training to 1500+ resulting in restructuring offices, revamping hiring/retention programs, and improving employee/volunteer morale. He collaborated with Head Start to create the 4-H Sprouts program, reaching 3-5 year-old youth using age-appropriate 4-H skills and the Head Start Early Learning Framework.

His natural resources partnerships developed an App to identify and track the Emerald Ash Borer and a second App to identify the 200 native woody plants in Colorado, using it as both a diagnostic and educational tool. Each has been downloaded 1,000+ times.”
Diversity Recognition - Individual

Carla Farrand
Garfield County Extension Director

“Carla began her work in Garfield County in the Spring of 2015. In the fall of 2015, Carla was challenged by a local community member to begin teaching food preservation classes in Spanish. This local community member stepped up to volunteer to provide the translation during the first few classes. This community member (Luz Valencia) was recruited to as a Master Food Safety Advisor and the preservación de alimentos (food preservation) series of classes was created.”
Visionary Leadership Award

Katie Dunker
Statewide CO Master Gardener Coordinator

“Katie has taken the Master Gardener program in great new directions - particularly impressive was her ability to pivot with the pandemic - and come up with the Grow and Give program (thousands of pounds of food donated to those in need), and to get the Master Gardener program and Certified Gardener program more online - and then completely online for next year. The calls she has implemented have helped us all figure out how to navigate these trying times.”
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR WINNERS!!

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