

Liz Buckner
County Extension Agent-FCS
Rusk County

Newspaper Column

The Texas Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences held their annual conference in Brenham, Texas July 28th-31st, and on the last day of the conference the professional awards presentation was held.

County Extension Agents in the field of Family and Consumer Sciences across the state were recognized with various awards, including the agents in the East District V Region. Each year, county extension agents in East District V host three district-wide child care conferences offering CEU hours for child care providers. These agents were recognized for their efforts by receiving the 2014 Texas Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (TEAFCS) EARLY CHILDHOOD CHILD CARE TRAINING AWARD. The following was the citation read with the honor, "The Family and Consumer Sciences Agents of District 5 - presented 3 child care conferences in 2014. They are committed to providing affordable, high-quality training for local providers." Awarded to: Mandy Patrick-Houston CEA-FCS; Holly Black-Anderson CEA-FCS; Liz Buckner-Rusk CEA-FCS; Patrice Dunagin-Smith CEA-FCS; Liz Espie-Sabine CEA-FCS; Emily Janowski-Polk CEA-FCS; Claudann Jones-Nacogdoches CEA-FCS; Vickie Lacy-Panola CEA-FCS; Louraiseal McDonald-Harrison CEA-FCS; Jheri-Lynn McSwain-Shelby CEA-FCS; Angela Monk-Wood-CEA-FCS; Jennifer Page-Tyler CEA-FCS; Cathy Pearson-Newton CEA-FCS; Joel Redus-Angelina CEA-FCS; Dee Lee Smith-Gregg CEA-FCS; Lauren Tedford-Henderson CEA-FCS; Megan Turnmire-Cherokee CEA-FCS; Cindy VanDevender-Jasper CEA-FCS; Julie York-Upshur CEA-FCS.

Additionally, these same agents earned a 4th place ranking with their TEAFCS Communications - Team Newsletter Award for their "Better Living for Texans Newsletter" which advanced to the Southern Region Competition.

Also, each year a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Specialist is recognized for distinguished achievement. To be nominated, an application must be submitted by a member of TEAFCS and sponsored by a district. This year, the Rusk CEA-FCS wrote and submitted the application with the support of the District V Family and Consumer Sciences Agents nominating Myrna Hill - Passenger Safety Program Coordinator and Certified Child Passenger Safety Instructor for the award.

The following was the citation that was read as Myrna received her award for 2014 TEAFCS EXTENSION SPECIALIST AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT, "Myrna works tirelessly to serve county extension agents and families statewide with education helping to reduce injuries and deaths due to vehicle crashes. She assists with programming in child passenger safety, occupant protection, distracted driving awareness, pedestrian and bicycle safety, and provides follow up statistics of the program results."

This was a very good year regarding awards and District V Family and Consumer Sciences Agents, and there will be more to add later in the year.

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L-R Myrna Hill – Extension Specialist
Award for Distinguished Achievement, Liz Buckner



Early Childhood Child Care Training Award
Back Row L-R - Dr. Doug Steele – Director of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Claudann Jones-Nacogdoches CEA-FCS; Jheri-Lynn McSwain-Shelby CEA-FCS; Julie York-Upshur CEA-FCS
Front Row L-R – Louraiseal McDonald-Harrison CEA-FCS; Liz Buckner-Rusk CEA-FCS; Emily Janowski-Polk CEA-FCS; Holly Black-Anderson CEA-FCS; Mandy Patrick-Houston CEA-FCS