

Entre Nous



THE PUBLICATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF EXTENSION 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONALS

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“QUEST”

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Entre Nous means “between us” and serves as the official publication for members of the Wisconsin Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals.

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The Winter issue of *Entre Nous* will focus on “Spirit”, so start writing your articles now. The due date will be February 1. You don’t have to limit your articles to the focus theme. The *Entre Nous* is your newsletter. Express yourself! Share personal and professional concerns and triumphs.

“Quest”

Dawn Schneider, Entre Nous Editor, Langlade County 4-H Youth Development Agent

“To be on a quest is nothing more or less than to become an asker of questions”.

Sam Keen

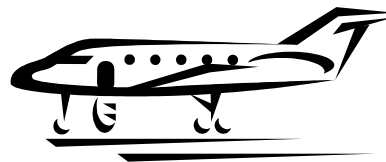
I am excited to once again be serving as the editor of Entre Nous! Entre Nous itself fits very well into our theme of “Quest”. This newsletter is our search for and our journey toward our professional development and sharing.

When I hear the word “Quest”, I usually think of a journey or some sort of exciting adventure. As a 4-H Youth Development Professional, I find myself involved in many quests and I often feel like every day is an adventure (sometimes a good one and sometimes not so good) in this job.

However, there are other, broader quests I find myself on. I am always looking to improve myself. I take steps to do this by attending professional development opportunities such as the National Conference in Seattle. I strive to create a great 4-H year where there are few problems and many positive learning experiences. I am on a quest to figure out how to balance my professional life and my personal life and not let either suffer. I am on a quest to complete my portfolio on time. I am on a quest to help the community understand the importance of positive youth development experiences for our youth. I am on a quest as an individual to figure out who I am and where I fit in this world. I could go on and on.

Sam Keen said, “To be on a quest is nothing more or less than to become an asker of questions.” I feel this is an excellent way to view our theme. While I may never reach satisfactorily the end of all of the quests that I mentioned earlier, they give me a non-stop journey – a reason to keep moving forward – a reason to keep asking questions – a reason to strive to improve and learn – a reason to stay energized and engaged in my work.

The theme for our Spring issue will be “Spirit”. I look forward to reading about how people refresh their spirits, how they develop the spirit of 4-H or anything else related to the topic. I also look forward to seeing many of you as we take a step in our Quest for hosting a wonderful conference in 2006 by attending the 2005 Conference. See you in Seattle!



President's Message

Karen Sipple, WAE4-HYDP President and Clark County 4-H Youth Development Agent

*"Please join me on the "Quest" to October 2006."
-Karen Sipple*

This issue of the Entre' Nous introduces the first theme of the year - "Quest." This is taken from the 2006 National Conference theme "Quest for Spirit and Imagination."

We all have had a quest whether it was to travel, find a new home, or even find that one job you could enjoy doing for the rest of your career.

Our biggest quest as WAE4-HYDP members this year is to create great creative and cohesive working partnerships. Our state and our state association will be in the limelight in just twelve short months, and without working together we may end up limiting ourselves or excluding colleagues who have a great deal to contribute.

We will all be traveling this journey together making the quest to create a fun, educational and professional conference. This event will allow us to showcase our strengths, talents, and all that WAE4-HYD members, Wisconsin 4-H, and Milwaukee have to offer.

Please join me on the "Quest" to October 2006.

The Quest for Spirit and Imagination

NAE4-HA Annual Conference

October 22-26, 2006

Milwaukee Hilton and Midwest Airlines Center

Merry Klemme, Calumet County 4-H Youth Development Agent and 2006 Conference Committee Tri-Chair

Way back (I can hardly remember) when, I was part of the NAE4-HA National Conference Bid Committee, that worked long and hard putting together a bid so that Wisconsin would be awarded the opportunity to host the 2006 NAE4-HA Conference in Milwaukee.

At that time we decided on the Logo, Mission, and Themes. "The Quest for Spirit and Imagination" was chosen as the Conference logo. We defined the key words (using the good old Webster) as

Quest - "A seeking; adventure, usually involving a journey"
Spirit - "The breathe of life; life, or the breathe of principle"
Imagination - "Formation of mental images of objects not present to the senses; of those never perceived in their entirety; hence mental synthesis of new ideas from elements experienced separately"

“Hosting the Conference is certainly a quest for all of us who have been and will be involved in planning and implementing the conference next year.”

-Merry Klemme

This issue the theme for the Entre Nous is the Quest. So let's examine that definition - "a seeking; adventure, usually involving a journey." Monday of the Conference is our "Quest" Theme Day. We are extremely fortunate that we will have Margaret Wheatly keynoting that day. She is an internationally acclaimed speaker. The exact topic of her keynote speech is still being worked on, but the title of her latest book, Finding Our Way: Leadership for an Uncertain Time, gives us a glimpse into the quest/journey/adventure she will lead us on at the conference. We will be selling her books at the conference and she has graciously agreed to spend some time signing those books for us. She will also be around later in the day to conduct a super seminar.

The Keynote Speaker sub-committee has done a great job of securing Margaret Wheatly for our conference and the National 4-H Trust generously gave us a grant to cover her costs. Donna Menart and Karen Nelson are the co-chairs of that sub-committee.

Hosting the Conference is certainly a quest for all of us who have been and will be involved in planning and implementing the conference next year. (Yes, it is true – it is only one year away!) In August, the Tri-Chairs met with Yvonne Horton and Donna Menart to bring the UW-Extension Administration up-to-date on the progress we have been making. We were proud to report a lot of progress. The Leadership Team and their sub-teams have been busy, busy, busy.

There will be some great promotions going on in Seattle. There are some super educational and entertaining programs already lined up for next year. Commercial exhibits are starting to get booked. Volunteers are starting to sign up to help. The Extension administrative team is planning how they can help. The hotel and convention center are getting geared up. There are way too many things going on to list them all, but suffice it to say, we are a great team of smart, hard working professionals determined to make this the best experience our national colleagues have ever had.

Regional Recognition for Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development Professionals

Nancy Eisele, Information Processing Consultant and WAE4-HYDP Awards and Recognition Chair

The Wisconsin Association of 4-H Youth Development Professionals consists of many individual members with a variety of outstanding leadership skills. The mission of WAE4-HYDP is to promote, strengthen, and advocate the Extension 4-H Youth Development profession, while providing a safe forum, camaraderie, support, and recognition of its members. The Awards and Recognition program acknowledges and rewards professionals who, through their own personal leadership skills, have demonstrated success in their respective fields. They have also encouraged and planned for the development of leadership skills in youth and adults.

In 2005, we are proud to announce five state award recipients who were also selected to receive awards and recognition from the North Central Region of the National Association of 4-H Youth Development Professionals.

Communicator Awards

- **Feature Story**
“The Power of YOUth”
Jim Winkler, Oneida County
- **Educational Piece – Individual**
“Small World”
Paula Rogers Huff, Oconto County
- **Video Program - Team**
“2004 4-H Arts Leadership Lab Promotional Video”
John de Montmollin, Kenosha County
Team members: Danielle Clark, Dara Fillmore, John Fillmore, Lisa Fisher, Lucas Scheeter, Ashley Viste, Julie Giss, Isaac Kulka, Robert O’Leary, Kelly Wheeler
- **Promotional Package – Individual**
“Washburn County Board Youth Representatives”
Annette Bjorklund, Washburn County

Successful Program Recognition

- **Search for Excellence in Teen Programming –Team**
“Youth Leadership Skills in a Competitive, Changing World”
Dawn Schneider, Dan Renzoni, Angela Cornell

All of us would like to extend our congratulations to these award recipients. If you’re interested in learning more about how WAE4-HYDP can help broaden and sharpen your leadership skills, contact your district representative.



Quest for Healthier Living

Rosanne Schleif, Price County 4-H Youth Development Educator

“The quest for healthier living is on in Wisconsin 4-H!”
-Rosanne Schleif



The quest for healthier living is on in Wisconsin 4-H! Our *RetroFit Yourself!* program, initiated in May, has registered 337 4-H youth, parents, volunteers and staff as participants. We have collectively logged over 36,000 miles of physical activity! Forty-two counties have requested incentives to advance the program in their locale and we are nearly half-way to our state goal of 700 participants. You can check out the program or register to start at <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/fitness/>, our Wisconsin 4-H home page. Just hit the hot button for *RetroFit Yourself!* and you will be linked to the site.

I'll be the first to admit registering is the easiest part of this quest! Who ever thought that doing 30 minutes of daily physical activity and logging it on a computer would be so tough? Daily commitment and logging time have become the hardest parts of the quest for me. You'd think this would have been easier for a "resolute" personality type. My resolve was great the first six weeks. Then things began to bog down with camps and fairs, vacations, budgets, reports and the list goes on and on. To top it all off we had many, many hot and humid days this summer! My faithful dog went from an eager walking companion in June to a lump by the easy chair in front of a fan by August. Yup, we were quite a pair!

All the research tells me regular physical activity is the best way to beat the odds and stay healthier as I grow older. No, I am not ready to hang it up just yet, but I am at the point where I think more often about some great things to do when I retire. I sure don't want to become another statistic in a future study about chronic disease.

“The neat part of this quest is I really can’t fail altogether. I am picking myself up TODAY and moving forward again. I’m prioritizing and putting myself and my daily routine at the top of the list.”
-Rosanne Schleif

The neat part of this quest is I really can’t fail altogether. I am picking myself up TODAY and moving forward again. I’m prioritizing and putting myself and my daily routine at the top of the list. I have another twelve months left on this project, and an opportunity to finish strong on a quest that could make a difference for my lifetime! Join me and all the others around Wisconsin on the quest for healthier living!



Quest to “Better our Best in the Pacific Northwest”

Dawn Kuelz, Entre Nous Assistant Editor and Door County 4-H Youth Development Agent

“After making my plane and hotel reservations and getting all of my registration finalized, it sunk in that I was going to be going to something that would be a great influence on my life.”
-Dawn Kuelz

I am getting ready to take my first Quest to a National 4-H Agent Conference, and I can’t wait! I have been planning this quest for what seems like an eternity, and it is finally here!

After making my plane and hotel reservations and getting all of my registration finalized, it sunk in that I was going to be going to something that would be a great influence on my life. I am excited for the opportunity to be re-energized and learn a lot about new and exciting projects in 4-H. I am really looking forward to being with all of the Wisconsin colleagues and being able to continue to meet and network within our state delegation.

And going to Seattle isn’t the only quest I have been on lately. I am very thankful for all the support I have gotten so far on my quest in 4-H Youth Development. It’s nice to know that wherever this journey takes me, I am not alone, and there is someone else out there that has asked the same question or needed help with the same kind of issue. It’s very reassuring to know that I am not the first, nor will I probably be the last, to have questions or problems while on this path! So I would

like to offer a big thank you to all those who have provided a roadmap to help guide me along the way.

But I am very excited to make my quest this fall and I am looking forward to a great conference in Seattle and learning more about what a National Conference is like so I can continue to be an active part of the 2006 planning committee.

So I hope that others who are taking the same quest to “Better our Best in the Pacific Northwest” are excited too! It is going to be a great adventure, and will help us renew our spirit and imagination as we prepare for 2006!

My Personal Quest

Jim Winkler, Oneida County 4-H Youth Development Agent

*“I have long felt that youth development professionals are called into this line of work.”
-Jim Winkler*

In 2005, I have surpassed my personal quest as a 4-H Youth Development Agent – 25 plus years in this business. As I look over my past years (26 to be exact), I think of how blessed I have been to be associated with 4-H.

When I started as a youth development professional in 1975 in Anoka County Minnesota, 4-H agents tended to have a short life span. I can remember countless colleagues who started in 4-H but with their home economic or agriculture degrees, ended up transferring into other divisions of extension where the night meetings and weekends seemed to be more bearable than with 4-H. Others found out that they were not cut out for this type of career. I have long felt that youth development professionals are called into this line of work. Over the years though, a small cadre of youth development professionals invest their life to helping youth and adults. When I left Minnesota 4-H after nearly 12 years, I remember at least one agent who had retired with their entire career in 4-H work. At that point, I wondered if I would ever achieve a full career in the youth development profession.

Today, it excites me to see a growing number of 4-H youth agents who have retired with their full complement of service in this field. And many of my current colleagues have invested their time in youth development and will retire one day, as will I, committed to this unique career.

Well, it seems that I need a new Quest. I wonder if my blood will be as green when I pass on, as it is today. I sure hope so!

Greetings from Marquette County

Dean Slark, Marquette County 4-H Youth Development Agent

Hello, my name is Dean Slark, and I am the new 4-H Youth Development Agent for Marquette County. I grew up on a Dairy, Beef, Swine, and Crop farm near Sauk City. I also showed animals at the



Sauk County and state fairs through 4-H. The skills and opportunities I gained through 4-H have prepared me for life's challenges and I hope it does the same for your children. After high school I attended UW-Platteville for 4 years and received my bachelors degree in Animal Science. I then moved on to UW-River Falls and received my masters degree in Agricultural Education. Following college I taught Agriculture in the Tomah Area School District for the past two years. I arrive to the Marquette county area with my wife Amy and my son Cole. I am extremely excited about the opportunity to work with Marquette county youth and build upon the present youth programs in the county.

The Quest for Learning

Cloverbuds: What They Do and What They Learn

Wally Hitt, Marinette County 4-H Youth Development Agent

In the Marinette County 4-H Program we use an optional Cloverbud Record Report. Included in it is a space for a parent's comments. The comments reflect the value of participating as a Cloverbud from a parent's perspective.

*"Our second year in 4-H has been a very positive one. We have done many fun things as well as learned new things."
-Parent of WI Cloverbud*

Recent comments: "Ryan had a lot of fun in 4-H and he made new friends. The activities are helping him grow, in gaining self-confidence and in helping him with his listening skills." "Alysha has blossomed from being in 4-H. Her self-confidence gets better every year that she is in it."

"Courtney really enjoys 4-H. It gives her time to spend with her friends and to learn and to grow." "Hartley has learned a lot about teamwork, friendship and in being helpful over the past two years. She has made new friends and is more confident, as well!"

"Having my daughter in 4-H has given her the opportunity to meet new friends and to help her with her self esteem." "My son and I had a fun year in 4-H. Our club did a lot and the kids learned a lot."

"This has been Lily's first year in 4-H. She has enjoyed getting together with the other kids and learning and doing fun things." "Our second year in 4-H has been a very positive one. We have done many fun things as well as learned new things."

"Ashley has really grown since joining 4-H. She has become more outgoing and willing to try new things." "Kennedy really enjoys 4-H, entering the fair and especially the Music festival—she really loves to sing and is grateful for the opportunity."

Some of the activities Marinette County Cloverbuds participated in this past year were: Learning about fire safety; going swimming; visiting the Sheriff's Department to learn about crime prevention; seeing how a bank operates; parades; helping at the Fireman's Picnic; Chain Reaction Day (raking leaves for the elderly); crafts; Winter Fun Day;

Park Cleanup; making cards for the V.A. Hospital; Old McDonald's play at 4-H Drama Fest; puppets; visiting a Hospital Sports Medicine Center; making Sand Candles; learning about the Food Pyramid and how to eat healthy; Adopt-A-Soldier; conservation; health; safety; giving a talk (many of the Cloverbuds checked participating in a talk or demonstration); recreation; singing Christmas songs at the Nursing Home; visiting the Zoo; going to an amusement park, and learning about pet care.

My Milwaukee Quest

Rene L. Mehlberg, Winnebago County 4-H Youth Development Educator



Today is October 7, 2005. The quest is about to begin. Those with spirit are heading to 601 West Dayton in Madison. They imagine a season of hope and promise. Yes, it's that time again. Six months after the last whistle blew and the horn sounded in Columbus, Ohio, it's time to DROP THE PUCK and kick off another season of college hockey!

For Wisconsin Badger Hockey fans (and I'm talking the men's team) the quest starts tonight, 7:05p.m. Kohl Center, when the Badgers face-off against the St. Lawrence Saints. Our quest is to be playing 6 months from now at the NCAA Frozen Four in Milwaukee April 6 and 8. And for those who may be wondering, yes, I already have MY Frozen Four tickets.

The quest will NOT be easy. The Badgers are in the toughest league in the nation, the WCHA. The 2005 Frozen Four teams were all from the WCHA last year. Let's just say many people (especially those people in the East) were NOT happy.

No quest worth fighting for is ever easy. But don't fear, the Badgers have SPIRIT! When players rarely sit down as they are intensely watching the game, that's spirit. Seeing Coach Mike Eaves talking with players, challenging the ref, coming up with new strategies when something's not working, that's spirit. When a goal is scored and the team celebration begins, that's spirit.

I'd be amiss to talk about spirit and not talk about the fans. The UW Band does an outstanding job getting everyone into the spirit, especially the students. After the athletes and coaches, the students may have the most spirit of all. They cheer; they jeer at opposing goalies and the refs, especially with BAD calls. I LOVE it when the students at the end of the game start yelling, "Stand up old people" to get the rest of the 13,000 fans up out of the seats to cheer our boys on – win or lose!

Only one team ends the season with a win. Imagine that being the Cardinal and White of the Badgers. There are many Badger players, coaches, and fans that imagine bringing the NCAA title back to

Wisconsin by winning it on “home” ice. It’s been TOO long (1990) since the last title was won. What could be better than winning in your home state? Imagine the fun of experiencing the quest, the spirit in Milwaukee April 8 when the last horn sounds and YOUR team in the one ahead on the scoreboard, the continuing spirit when the trophy and banner would be presented at the start of the next hockey season.....It’s almost too much for words.

The Badger’s Quest for Spirit and Imagination starts NOW! **GO RED!!!**

Race, Poverty and Education in Arkansas, U.S.A.

Stephen Horvath, Wood County 4-H Youth Development Agent

As a member of Group XI of the Wisconsin Rural Leadership Program (WRLP), I recently had the opportunity to take an adventurous expedition in pursuit of something—in a word, I was on a quest!

The quest in question was week-long trip to the state of Arkansas to explore three issues—race, poverty and education—through WRLP’s Regional Seminar. The Regional Seminar is designed to give Rural Leadership participants an opportunity to travel to another state to take an in-depth look at major issues facing the citizens of that state, to examine how the citizens are responding to the issues and, for members of WRLP, a chance to reflect on how we might better tackle some of the issues facing the citizens of Wisconsin. Having had the chance to speak with several alumni of WRLP, I was intrigued by the stories they shared about their own Regional Seminar experiences, and excited by what I might learn in Arkansas. I am now happy to share some of my own experiences.

At first glance, the issues of race, poverty and education in Arkansas seem to be so completely enmeshed that if any one of the issues were addressed, it would ultimately be to the benefit of the other issues. Nevertheless, each of these issues has its’ own “history” as well, which makes it an even greater challenge to tackle all three, something that, to their credit, many Arkansans are doing.

Race—specifically, the social situation that exists between black and white Arkansans—continues to be an issue at all levels of society, both in a good and not-so-good sense. One of the first visits we made was to Little Rock Central High School, now a National Historic Site, where the “Little Rock Nine” made history in 1957 as the first African American high school students to attempt to integrate into the then all-white Little Rock Central High School. Despite the tumult they faced that year, those brave students paved the way for school desegregation to occur not only in Arkansas, but throughout the nation. Today, Little Rock Central High School is a fully-integrated magnet school which offers the International Baccalaureate degree, one of only two high schools in the state to do so. However, during a panel discussion we attended at the school that evening, the Director of the Arkansas NAACP made the insightful comment that had the school integration effort commenced at the kindergarten level, rather than at the high school level, race relations

*“The Regional Seminar is designed to give Rural Leadership participants an opportunity to travel to another state to take an in-depth look at major issues facing the citizens of that state, to examine how the citizens are responding to the issues and, for members of WRLP, a chance to reflect on how we might better tackle some of the issues facing the citizens of Wisconsin.”
-Stephen Horvath*

would likely have improved nearly a generation sooner than they did. Incredibly so, full desegregation did not come to Arkansas elementary schools until 1971.

“Another issue we examined was poverty and how it is having an extremely negative impact on society...”

-Stephen Horvath

The example of Little Rock Central High School is positive in terms of how far black and white Arkansans have come to share their society. Be that as it may, there remains a clear dichotomy among citizens of the state. During a dinner function at the Clinton Presidential Library one evening, we had the pleasure of meeting the Dean and Director of the University of Arkansas – Extension, an African-American gentleman. We were also given a tour of cotton farm country, hosted by Lazaro English, who has been the Lee County, Arkansas Extension Agriculture Agent for the past twenty years and who himself is African-American. Mr. English told us matter-of-factly that, while the majority of his farm clients are white and that many of them have hired consultants to help them with their operations, they still call him to make sure that what their paid consultants tell them is correct! On the other hand, following an overnight home-stay that each of us spent with an Arkansas host family, fellow Rural Leadership participants shared stories of their evening, - most of which were very positive. Two stories, however, were a bit unsettling. One individual recounted of being taken to a private country club where, he was told, membership was based on having the “right color” of skin. A second told of shopping at a flea market where t-shirts with blatantly racist slogans were being openly sold.

Another issue we examined was poverty and how it is having an extremely negative impact on society, particularly in the southeast third of the state, a region known as the Arkansas Delta. The Delta is heavily oriented to agriculture production, and is where nearly all of the row crops—soybeans, corn and cotton—are grown in the state. This area was once dominated by plantations, which in many cases became tenant farms in the decades following the Civil War. As with other regions of the United States today that are heavily dependent on row crop agriculture, the farms of the Delta region have dramatically evolved from smaller farms that at one time collectively employed thousands of people to many fewer, much larger farms that rely on modern machinery rather than human labor. This transformation has not occurred overnight, of course. Migration from the Delta to other parts of the state, particularly to the northwest corner where there is more industry, as well as to other parts of the country, has been taking place for years. The unfortunate reality is that those who remain in the Delta, the majority of whom are black, are struggling to earn a living where there are few opportunities. In fact, during our tour of Lee County, Lazaro English shared with us the sobering fact that his county was the third poorest in the nation. An historic aside—the Arkansas Delta is where many once-famous Blues artists were born, raised and began their trade, which is perhaps not ironic given the ongoing socio-economic dilemma that exists in the region.

The third issue explored was education. As a group, we had the opportunity to meet the State Superintendent of Schools, who gave us an enlightening, though not necessarily positive, overview of education in Arkansas. Included in his presentation was his dramatic recounting of how he had personally, just prior to our visit, carried out a new law which

“The discussion with this group of panel members was a powerful reminder to many participants in our group of the very important role education plays in society.”
-Stephen Horvath

gives the state the power to “take over” a school district, by going to the Helena School District office to fire the superintendent, dismiss the school board and put the district’s operations into the hands of the state. While extreme, it did show us Wisconsinites that they are beginning to take education “seriously” in Arkansas!

We also traveled to Forrest City, Arkansas and were hosted by the Forrest City School Board, the District Superintendent, school principals, as well as local community members, who presented for us a panel discussion on the education issues they are facing in Forrest City. This district is on the northern edge of the Delta, has little industry and few jobs, experiences a poverty rate of greater than ninety percent, and is currently losing nearly 100 students each year—all factors that work against having a strong educational presence in the community—yet the reception we were given was one of true cordiality, and the sense that those in attendance that night were “on a mission” was very evident.

In addition, members of the panel explained very clearly for us why Arkansas education lags far behind other areas in the nation in terms of test scores and graduation rates, among other factors. Simply put, there has been an historic nonemphasis placed on education—both for blacks as well as whites—that is still the mindset held by many Arkansans. This nonemphasis goes something like this: “I have done o.k. with a high school diploma (or less!), you don’t need more education, either”. For African- Americans, who received only the most rudimentary of educations, if any at all, for many generations, this mindset has had even more severe consequences for them and their success in society. The discussion with this group of panel members was a powerful reminder to many participants in our group of the very important role education plays in society. In fact, during a debriefing just prior to the end of our trip, during which all of us Rural Leadership participants had the chance to share our insights gained from the experience, many cited the power of education to be able to simultaneously combat the ills of poverty and racism. Personally, the time we spent with the Forrest City School Board was one of the highlights of the Regional Seminar inasmuch as it was a vivid example of how a very diverse group of individuals is working very hard together toward the common goal of improving the lives of everyone in the community.

The opportunity to spend a week in Arkansas, to learn about their struggles and successes, their plans for the future, and partake in their overwhelming hospitality, has reinforced my long-held belief that there is really nothing like travel to see life through a different lens and to expand one’s mind!”

2005-2006 WAE4-HYDP Board of Directors

Fast Fact

WAE4-HYDP works in conjunction with the University of Wisconsin-Extension – an EEO/Affirmative Action employer. WAE4-HYDP provides equal opportunities in programming, including Title IX and ADA requirements.

Please call (608) 297-9153 to make requests for equal access to the materials within.

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