

**NOMINATION FOR
Southern Region Continued Distinguished Service Award
Epsilon Sigma Phi, Alpha Zeta Chapter – Texas**



Nominee's Name: Susan K. Breitling
Title: C.E.A. Family and Consumer Sciences
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Position and Dates of Extension Employment:

County Extension Agent - Family and Consumer Sciences/Community Development,
Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Lubbock County, 2007 - Present
County Extension Agent - Family and Consumer Sciences/Community Development,
Texas Cooperative Extension Service, Dallam and Hartley Counties, 2003 - 2007
County Extension Agent - Family and Consumer Sciences, Texas Cooperative Extension,
Dallam County, 2003 - 2007
County Extension Agent - Family and Consumer Sciences, Texas Agricultural Extension Service,
Dallam County, 1976 - 2003

Education:

M.Ed. Adult Education, Texas A&M University, 1980
B.S. Home Economics Education/Family Studies, Texas Tech University, 1975

Outstanding Professional Accomplishments:

Superior Service Award for Distinguished Career – County Extension Agent, 2007
President of Texas Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, 2006-2007
Vice-Chancellor's Award in Excellence in Family and Consumer Sciences, 2007
Epsilon Sigma Phi Continued Distinguished Service Award, 2006
NAEFCS Nominating Committee Member, 2006
4-H Volunteer Leader's Association Meritorious Service Award, 2004
Vice-Chancellor's Award in Excellence in 4-H and Youth Development, 2001
Epsilon Sigma Phi Distinguished Service Award, 2000
Vice-Chancellor's Award in Excellence in Youth Development, 2000
Citizen of the Year, Dalhart Area Chamber of Commerce, 1992
Superior Service Award, Texas Agricultural Extension Service, 1989
Distinguished Service Award - District / State / National NAFCE, 1989

Outstanding Programmatic Accomplishments:

In her 32-year Extension career, Susie Breitling has consistently been a top-ranked Family and Consumer Science County Extension Agent, exemplifying excellence in all facets of her work. She has made quality, innovative, and timely Extension education her hallmark. Susie has utilized the Extension philosophy of involving grassroots people in decision making and program implementation to address key issues. Susie never been satisfied with the status-quo and has worked diligently to move Extension programming to a higher level. The impact of her Extension program efforts is a testament to her skills in leadership development, partnerships, and collaborations.

Excellence in Partnering for Success

A master at developing partnerships and maximizing resources, Susie has used her leadership skills to bring people together to develop programs and services with long-lasting impacts in the counties.

Community Services for Families with Youth

The Extension FCS committee organized an after school program to provide an option other than self-care for school age youth. Approximately \$6,000 was raised locally to begin the program, MAGIC, an alliteration for Making A Great Independent Child. The committee continued to address the need for community and extracurricular activities for junior high youth. With the county commissioner's court providing a building and the committee raising approximately \$60,000 for building renovation the Dalhart Youth Center became a reality. It is now the headquarters for the Americorp program, Children's Trust Fund parenting program, and the XIT Secondary Alternative School.

Community Services for the Elderly

There was not a senior citizens center with a nutrition site-or home delivered meals program in Dallam county. The FCS committee organized a local "Meals on Wheels" program with meals provided by the local hospital and delivered by volunteer drivers. Thousands of dollars were raised for replacement trays and to hire a part-time director. The program provides nutritious meals to the elderly and home-bound. The program is now an incorporated 501-3C organization run by an independent board. The original task force became an Aging Committee to address needs of the elderly. This committee worked for two-and-a-half years to secure a facility which would be large enough to accommodate 200 people, provide a congregate meal site, and provide a wide variety of activities and programs to attract seniors.

Excellence in Volunteer Management

Susie has always been a leader in volunteer management, having one of the best volunteer programs in the state. Prior to 2003, Susie had a major responsibility for the 4-H program in Dallam county. Susie developed a model, 4-H volunteer management program by developing and utilizing a "four year" training approach for adult and youth volunteers. Identification of volunteer roles and volunteers, training, and empowerment of volunteers were keys to success. Volunteers served as advisors for County 4-H Council and 4-H Ambassadors, as club managers, master money management volunteers, project leaders, and other roles as needed. Her program development committees take an active role in planning, implementing, evaluating, and interpreting educational programs.

Excellence in Adapting to Change

The ultimate challenge for Susie came in 2003 with budget reductions that resulted in joining Dallam and Hartley county Extension offices and reorganization of the Extension staff to serve both counties. Susie had to manage the entire Extension program for many months during the preceding two year period because of co-worker vacancies. However, Susie made lemonade from lemons, resulting in some of her best educational programming ever.

- ▶ "Changing Places," program series (2003) on cleaning, home organization, and decorating targeting Title 1 junior high school students.
- ▶ Do Well, Be Well Diabetes education (2003 - 2007) conducted in Dalhart, Channing, and Texline communities. Also piloted Cooking Well with Diabetes program series.
- ▶ Dames and Dollars Financial Management five-session, 11 lesson series (2005) conducted in Texline with significant increases in knowledge of basic financial management principles, risk management, and investments.
- ▶ Choosy Families, Choosy Kids in Hartley schools with 46 youth, resulting in better eating habits and increased exercise.

Whether a state banner program or a program created to meet a special community need, Susie uses her unique and creative skills to tailor the program to her clientele. Her creative and timely programs are shared across the district and state.

Support Statement:

Susie is an outstanding Extension educator. Her creativity, ability to develop and work a plan, and her skill with evaluation and interpretation has produced programs that have had economic, social, and quality of life impacts in the counties that she serves.