



## Iowa 4-H Newsletter

February 2018

### A Message from John-Paul Chaisson-Cárdenas

We welcome 4-H families to this edition of the Iowa 4-H Newsletter, in order to better share information with you. If you do not want to receive this newsletter, please opt out by unsubscribing [here](#).

**4-H EQUATION**  
Empowering youth to reach their full potential through youth-adult partnerships and research-based experiences

Our Reason Youth Needs	Our Method Essential Elements	Our Mission Program Priorities	Our Results Outcomes*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Belonging</li> <li>• Mastery</li> <li>• Independence</li> <li>• Generosity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caring Adults</li> <li>• Safe Environments</li> <li>• Inclusive Settings</li> <li>• Opportunities for Mastery</li> <li>• Service</li> <li>• Self-Determination</li> <li>• Planning for the Future</li> <li>• Engaged Learning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• STEM*</li> <li>• Healthy Living</li> <li>• Leadership and Civic Engagement</li> <li>• Communication and the Arts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Productive Citizens</li> <li>• Outstanding Communication</li> <li>• Effective Leaders</li> <li>• Successful Learners</li> </ul>

\*Through long-term, sustained learning experiences that connect children with Iowa State University's knowledge and research base.

The previous newsletter focused on inclusion, but creating a welcoming program and providing opportunity has always been at the foundation of 4-H. Our 4-H Equation shows what we do so well – giving youth opportunities for belonging, mastery, generosity, and independence – is our reason to exist. With these hallmarks, 4-H creates an environment where youth grow and reach their potential.

Belonging in 4-H is founded in our law that prohibits discrimination against anyone. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and 4-H wears the non-discrimination statement as a badge of honor.

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach does not discriminate on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, or status as a U.S. veteran. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies may be directed to Ross Wilburn, Diversity Officer, 2150 Beardshear Hall, [515 Morrill Road, Ames, Iowa 50011](#), 515-294-1482, [wilburn@iastate.edu](mailto:wilburn@iastate.edu).

This newsletter focuses on African-American History month, especially the connections Iowa State University and the 4-H program have to African-American history. There are the famous examples of George Washington Carver, who came to ISU to find a university that allowed him to advance his work, and Jack Trice, who gave his life as a result of an injury received during a football game. But 4-H has stories that showcase youth and their contributions to Iowa and the nation many don't know.

We are using this newsletter to tell some of these stories. We feature a former Iowa State student who became the first African-American to obtain a commercial pilots' license. James Banning came to Iowa and found freedom to study and pursue his passion to fly. Another is a current ISU faculty member, Dr. Theresa Cooper, a 4-H alum who gives credit to the 4-H program for her success today. The newsletter also showcases new volunteers in the program who work with youth in Polk County. Lastly, we showcase the Martin Luther King Day Youth Summit, held in Polk County in partnership with the Greater Des Moines YMCA. Youth learned about economic realities facing other youth in Polk County and then used their gained knowledge and their experience to give voice to their thinking.

African-American history month is a natural focus for Iowa 4-H. Much of the work done the past 100 years was to give all youth a voice in our present and future. As Iowa continues to change it's important to see what has been done and celebrate. But much remains to be done before we can say all youth feel welcome and can achieve mastery, independence, generosity, and, most of all, belonging. We invite you to join the Iowa 4-H program as a caring adult. Bring your passion and interests to our youth and invest in our present and future. Contact your County Extension office to find ways you can volunteer with 4-H.

In friendship,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John-Paul Chaisson-Cárdenas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John-Paul" being the most prominent part.

John-Paul Chaisson-Cárdenas  
Iowa 4-H Youth Development Program Leader

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