

# Margo Long

## **Biographical Narrative**

### **Appointments**

2017 – Present Extension Educator II, OSUE Marion County, 100% Time Commitment

### **Other Relevant Positions**

2014 – 2017 Director of Educational Programs, Ohio AgriBusiness Association

2011 – 2013 Associate Extension Educator, Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service, DeKalb County

### **Degrees**

2016 Master of Agriculture, Oklahoma State University, Agricultural Education

2011 Bachelor of Science, The Ohio State University, Agricultural Communications

### **Areas of Specialization**

- Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) Education
- School Enrichment

### **Marion County**

As of 2020, Marion County is the 39<sup>th</sup> largest county in Ohio, with approximately 65,483 residents. Of those residents, 89.8 percent are white, 5.3 percent are African American, 2.5 percent are Hispanic, and 3.2 percent are of two or more races. The county's median household income is approximately \$44,700, with an unemployment rate of 4.4 percent. Nearly 16.5 percent of the Marion County population is living in poverty. The population of youth in the county ages five to 17 is 20.9 percent. There are five school districts and approximately 9,526 students with a graduation rate of 89.7 percent.

### **Position Description**

Educator works collaboratively with county, center, areas and state teams of OSU Extension professionals and with local agency leaders and volunteers to provide leadership for 4-H Youth Development programming targeted local and area needs. The Educator utilizes appropriate methods, both formal and informal, of community assessment to identify educational needs and opportunities of local community. The Educator provides overall leadership to a comprehensive positive youth development program by designing, implementing, teaching and evaluating educational programming and developing new resources, based on these needs, to groups and individuals comprised of adults and/or youth. The Educator develops promotional material, leads committees and volunteers, and establishes and maintains partnerships within the community that support the achievement of the program goals. The Educator holds leadership roles in county, multi-county, state Extension teams to further the mission, vision and values of both Ohio State University Extension and 4-H Youth Development. Specifically, the Educator executes the following duties:

40% - Community Club & Volunteer Management: The 4-H community club program is very active in Marion County. With 32 community clubs and approximately 500 youth members, the Educator creates resources and trainings which support club management. Educator is responsible for the 4-H program's strategic marketing plan, with creating printed materials, website content development, electronic communication (newsletters and social media), and presentations to recruit and retain community club members. Annual programming created and facilitated include 4-H kick off, officer trainings, project clinics, and project evaluation events among many others. Educator views 4-H volunteer support as a vital component in the management of a strong and vibrant youth serving organization; and provides resources, information, training and policy and procedure communications for 156 adult volunteers. As an ex-officio member of the Marion County Senior Fair Board, the Educator consults and provides positive youth development perspective as the sole advisor for the local Junior Fair Board and Junior Fair program. She also provides leadership for the Marion County 4-H Council.

30% - Teen Leadership Development: Educator provides leadership to both residential and day camping programs in Marion County, which includes the selection, training and support of teen volunteers in counselor leadership roles, planning and implementing of new programmatic efforts for camps annually. Educator also creates and facilitates programs for Junior Fair Board. Each year, Educator provides opportunities for more than 96 teens totaling nearly 70 hours of instruction. Educator provides programs for teens to develop leadership skills.

30% - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) & Workforce Development Education: Since 2017, Educator determined programmatic efforts in STEM areas are deemed a critical need in Marion County and correlates with Ohio State Extension's commitment to lifelong learning to enhance workforce development for future employees. Educator is responsible for planning and implementing new programs and activities utilizing the engineering design process and computational thinking through collaborative community partnerships.

## **Major Accomplishments**

### **Programs and Teaching**

Since 2017, the Educator has taught 251 times reaching a total of 7,489 learners. The Educator has a robust and extensive portfolio of programs and teaching experience across three themes of 1) Community Club & Volunteer Management; 2) Camp Counselor & Teen Leadership Development; and 3) STEM Education. In each of these areas substantial growth has been achieved.

Community Club & Volunteer Management: Without the time and dedication of Marion County 4-H volunteers, the success of program outreach would be negligible to the current impact. Marion County 4-H Community Clubs have steadily maintained membership under Educator's leadership. Since 2019, volunteer participation has increased by 37 percent, approximately 42 adult and teen volunteers. From 2017-2019, the Educator has developed a strong collaborative partnership with the Marion County Senior Fair Board and County Commissioners to ensure more than 1,700 community club youth experience positive youth development experiences.

- One significant accomplishment is the transformation of the Marion County 4-H Advisory Council. From 2017-2019, the Educator has worked with the Marion County 4-H Advisory Council to review the council's constitution, bylaws, and memorandum of understanding were reviewed and update the documents to comply with Ohio 4-H guidelines and policies. Also, Educator facilitated the implementation of term limits for council membership and expanded membership to reflect the demographics and programmatic needs of the Marion County 4-H program.
- In 2017, the Educator was awarded a \$200 mini grant from the Ohio 4-H Foundation to expand volunteer development. The Educator invited key stakeholders and volunteers to discuss ways to improve the community club experience for both 4-H members and volunteers. Funds were available for volunteers to participate in volunteer development opportunities at the state level.
- Another noteworthy accomplishment is the implementation of the Marion County 4-H marketing campaign. Prior to 2020, the Educator would visit eight of 11 elementary schools within the county to recruit potential 4-H members during lunch periods. This year, the community event was organized to provide hands-on activities and opportunities for existing 4-H members and volunteers to participate through displays and direct conversation with the event participants. Educator designed and distributed 2,500 postcards to Marion County youth at the local elementary schools. Despite inclement weather, nearly 150 individuals attended the inaugural event.

Camp Counselor & Teen Leadership Development: The Marion County 4-H camping program has increased by an average of 24 percent at the annual county residential camp over the last three years. An extensive amount of time and commitment is given to nearly 40 camp counselors and the preparation for more than 200 campers. Marion County 4-H Cloverbud Day Camp serves nearly 40 Cloverbuds annually. Throughout 2017-2019, residential and day camp participation has increase by 45 percent, approximately 58 participants.

- The Educator has collaborated and taught in a multi-county setting for the 4-H Camp Ohio Counselor Weekend. This weekend-long event results in teaching more than 300 teens each year.
- In 2020, the Educator was asked to present at the annual Marion/Crawford County Teen Institute Winter Workshop. Utilizing Superbowl commercials and examples of social media posts, participants identified their own personal brand and gained an understanding of how their social media footprint can influence future opportunities. Nearly 200 local teens participate in the weekend-long event annually.
- Marion County 4-H was one of three counties to receive the National Mentoring Program - Health Rocks, year nine. In collaboration with Marion Harding High School's Expanded Learning program, the \$50,000 grant has allowed the site PI the opportunity to build life skills, which leads to healthy choices. Through mentoring, 13 high school youth participate in tobacco, drugs and alcohol prevention interactive and team activities.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) & Workforce Development Education: Perhaps one of the most notable accomplishments in the Educator's career leads to the collaborative partnerships and opportunities to implement STEM education and workforce development into the "toolbox" of the Marion County 4-H program. Prior to Educator's arrival, the local 4-H program reached nearly one percent of youth and due to increased programmatic efforts, the Educator has reached nearly 12 percent of Marion County youth,, approximately 4,154 youth from 2017-2019, which is one-step closer to meeting the challenge of one in five youth in the county involved with 4-H programming by 2025.

- The Educator has established ongoing partnerships to provide 4-H programming for five afterschool programs within local elementary and middle schools and continuous programming at five local schools including three elementary schools, one middle school and one high school. Programming consists of utilizing Ohio 4-H's STEM Pathways curriculum, National 4-H Youth Science Day curricula and Educator-developed lessons to focus on computational thinking and the engineering design process. Educator meets with each site between one and two times a month during the academic year, reaching nearly 530 youth annually.
- One of many significant accomplishments would be the recently established partnership with Pleasant Middle School. Working with the district's middle school computer technology teacher, the Educator has provided programming to teach students computational thinking concepts and coding using drone technology. By the end of the 2019-2020 academic year, the Educator is projected to work

with the entire student body—approximately 300 students. As a result of this collaboration, Ridgedale School District has contacted the Educator to incorporate similar programming for their students.

- Another noteworthy accomplishment would be the continuous collaboration efforts with the Boys & Girls Club of Marion. Marion County 4-H and Boys & Girls Club was one of three counties in a \$50,000 grant to be awarded the National Mentoring Program – Tech Wizards grant to continue to provide high quality STEM programming for at-risk youth and educator serves as site PI.
- In 2019, the Educator was asked to assist with the annual statewide 4-H Camp Tech Camp for middle school youth throughout Ohio. The three-day, two-night camp, located on the campus of The Ohio State University introduces youth to a variety of activities that include: coding, robotics, engineering design, electricity and more. In 2018, the Educator also participated in the annual STEAM on the QUAD event held at OSU Lima, where nearly 400 participants from across Ohio attended the family-friendly hands-on event.

### **Creative and Scholarly Work**

- Over the past three years, the Educator has presented at two regional, four state, and three national events for a total of nine times covering topics including at-risk youth, computational thinking, technology and STEM.
- In response to an expressed need to help 4-H promote an identity beyond livestock, the Educator developed various collateral pieces to promote the local 4-H program, including two 4-H billboards, banners, 4-H yard signs, and a New Parent Guide to help new 4-H families navigate through the 4-H program during their first year of membership and the Explore 4-H in the Classroom brochure for educators to identify resources the 4-H program can provide to enhance learning for their students.
- Through a robust collaboration with Marion Matters, Inc., a local non-profit, utilizing the R-Rules (rules and relationship) curriculum a process to identify, access, build, and apply resources for success in school, at work, and life. Also, Real Money. Real World and other resources were used to empower at-risk high school students to find tools and processes to improve their chances of succeeding in life. In 2018, the program worked with 20 students participating in the Harding XL (Expanded Learning) program (Marion City Schools), which allowed students to gain credits to earn toward graduation.
- The Educator secured more than \$90,500 in grants and gifts for the Marion County 4-H program over the past three years, including being selected for a \$20,000 grant from the Ohio Attorney General in 2019. Collaboratively with other 4-H colleagues, this funding has allowed the Educator to build capacity programmatically in the areas of STEM, expansion of local 4-H program's marketing strategy to create a consistent appearance and message within the local community, along with national programs such as Health Rocks!, Microsoft Tech Changemakers, and Tech Wizards.

### **Service**

- The Educator is an active member of the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents. In 2018, Ohio hosted the national conference and the educator served as co-chair for the donor and sponsorship committee, providing leadership and organizing conference sponsorships of approximately \$92,580. Educator has also served as the previous state contact for the NAE4-HA publicity committee and is currently the co-state contact for the NAE4-HA awards committee.
- At the state level, the Educator was elected to the 4-H Camp Ohio Corporation Board by her colleagues in 2018, where she served as the board secretary, responsible for documenting important information to Corporation and currently serves as vice president of the board, responsible for assisting the president as needed. Educator also serves as the co-chair of the Risk Management Committee, where she leads committee members to evaluate existing emergency plans and improve crisis management procedures.
- In 2020, the Educator was invited by the Ohio 4-H State Program Leader to participate on the Ohio 4-H Internal Advisory Committee. The Educator also served as the Ohio 4-H STEM Design Team chair from 2017-2018. She currently serves as the co-editor of the new statewide STEM blog.
- As a part of service to the Extension profession, the Educator taken significant time mentoring college students, hosting two semester-long interns. Interns assisted with the planning of Cloverbud Day Camp, project judging and STEM at the Fair activities.
- Educator has been interviewed by many OSU ACEL department students to help complete their field experience projects.

### **Plan for the Future**

The Educator plans to “make the best better” by building capacity within the Marion County 4-H Youth Development program. With additional resources and new strategies, the plan is to incorporate special interest (SPIN) clubs to expand programming in communities beyond the community club program. The Educator believes a local brand identity is vital to recruiting and retaining 4-H members; and will continue to use innovative approaches to share Ohio State University Extension and 4-H's mission and vision.

The Educator plans to continue developing programs focused on STEM to prepare young people for the workforce with an emphasis in gender disparity within STEM careers through opportunities for middle school youth. Through collaboration with the Girls Who Code organization, the Educator is in the midst of developing a program for middle school aged girls to close the gender gap in technology and to change the perception of STEM careers for females. The goal of the community to provide girls a safe and welcoming environment for youth to explore their belonging, purpose, creativity, and resilience.

Additionally, the Educator will also continue to share successes on a county, regional, state and national levels through professional development, scholarly and creative works, and collaborative partnerships, while also beginning coursework to obtain Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Agricultural Communication, Education, and Leadership.