

IFAS Extension

Florida 4-H Youth Development Program

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FLORIDA 4-H FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(GAINESVILLE, FL) - Florida 4-H Foundation, Inc., the nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the cause of Florida 4-H Youth Development, today announces the results of its annual Board of Directors election. Mike Waldron, Marc Sellers, Jason Halliburton and Sharon Spann have been elected officers to serve on the Florida 4-H Foundation, Inc. board of directors.

Mike Waldron, plant buyer at Delray Plants Company in Lake Placid, has been elected president of the board. A 4-H volunteer since 1989 and a board of directors member since 2006, Waldron is chair of the Highlands County Overall Extension Advisory Committee and is also on the Natural Resource Advisory Commission. He is also on the Board of Directors for the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association and is a member of the Lake Placid Jaycees. He is the father of four, two of which are currently involved in 4-H activities.

"I am honored to serve with an organization that looks at youth as an investment in the possibility of a better world," said Waldron, Florida 4-H Foundation newly elected board president. "Looking forward, as Florida 4-H celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2009, the board and I will strategically implement a course of action that highlights Florida 4-H as a leader among youth development organizations in Florida," Waldron continued.

Marc Sellers has been elected president-elect to the board. Sellers, financial advisor at Merrill Lynch in Jacksonville, has served on the board since 2005.

Jason Halliburton has been elected vice president on the foundation's board. Halliburton, who has served on the board since 2005, practices as a commercial litigation attorney with the law firm of Dean Mead in Orlando. He focuses his practice primarily in the areas of construction and commercial real estate litigation. In addition to serving on the Florida 4-H Foundation board, Halliburton is active in various bar associations, having recently served as president of the St. Lucie County Bar Association. He is also an active member of the Home Builders Association of Metro Orlando.

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Florida 4-H Youth Development Program

Foundation Board

Page 2

Sharon Spann has been elected treasurer as her first position as an officer since joining the board in 2004. She has served as co-chair of the Florida 4-H Tallahassee Legislative Auction and on numerous committees. Sharon was raised in Okeechobee, FL. She attended the University of Florida, receiving a B.S. in Agricultural Education in 2000 and a M.S. in Agricultural Education in 2002.

She currently works as a legislative assistant to State Representative Chris Dorworth (R-Lake Mary) and also served with former Representatives David Mealor and Ed Jennings, Jr. Prior to her work in the Florida Legislature she worked in governmental relations with the lobbying firm of Littlejohn, Mann & Associates.

Spann is an active volunteer within Florida 4-H and the Florida FFA organizations and received the Walter B Arnold, Jr. Youth Hall of Fame Award in 2005 for 4-H alumni. Additionally she is a past president of Florida Agri-Women, has served on the Central Florida Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Board of Directors as well as the University of Florida's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Alumni and Friends Board.

Created in 1963, the Florida 4-H Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit, educational foundation that aims to promote the development of Florida's youth by providing funding and direction to Florida 4-H, gain corporate and community partners, and provide stewardship in resource management. The foundation also provides financial management for 4-H Camps Timpoochee, Cherry Lake, Ocala and Cloverleaf. For a complete list of Florida 4-H Foundation, Inc. board members, visit <http://florida4h.org/foundation/.shtml>.

Florida 4-H Youth Development offers youth, ages 5 – 18, diverse project topics available in all 67 counties, and with the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Florida 4-H is the youth development program of the Florida Cooperative Extension Service (CES), headquartered in Gainesville within UF's IFAS. The CES is funded by a partnership between federal, state and county government agencies.

For more information about Florida 4-H, visit www.florida4h.org or contact your county Extension office. All programs are open to all persons regardless of race, color, age, sex, handicap or national origin.

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