



Missouri 4-H Legislative Academy

Program Summary—February 18-20, 2019

Presenting Sponsors: FCS Financial, First State Community Bank, and Missouri Pork Association

Delegate Sponsors: Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives, Axiom Strategies, Missouri Automobile Dealers, Missouri Cattlemen's Association, Missouri Corn Growers Association, Missouri Trucking Association, and Nelda Godfrey



Missouri 4-H youth delegates gathered at the State Capitol for the 14th annual University of Missouri Extension 4-H Legislative Academy, February 18-20. The Academy brought fifteen high school students from across the state to be immersed in the three branches of Missouri state government. Over the course of their three-day experience, Academy youth visited the Governor's Mansion and met with **Governor Mike Parson, First Lady Teresa Parson, and Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe.**

The Academy group was hosted in the State Capitol by **Sen. Sandy Crawford and Rep. Jeff Knight**, who introduced group members on the floor of the Missouri Senate and House. Delegates received resolutions and introductions on the Missouri House and Senate floors, and spent an afternoon shadowing executive offices and legislators from their home districts. The teens also joined in a "behind the scenes" State Capitol tour with **Rep. Ann Kelley and Mike Kelley**, Chief of Staff for Sen. Bill White.



Dr. Tony Simones, Civic Education Director for the Missouri Bar, placed delegates in the role of justices deciding the outcomes of historical first amendment cases. The group toured the **Missouri Supreme Court** to gain perspective on the justice system and Missouri's highest court.

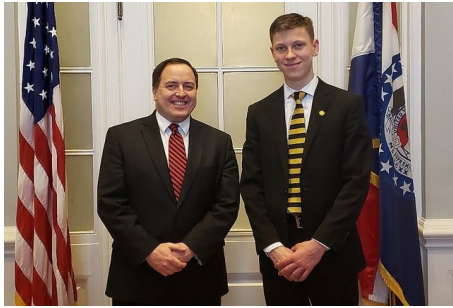
Youth delegates joined with legislators, 4-H sponsors, and guests at an evening banquet sponsored by the **Jim Russell Foundation and Missouri 4-H Foundation**. At the banquet, **Lowell Mohler** (Founder of Missouri 4-H Legislative Academy) and **Ronnie Russell** (Missouri Fertilizer Control Board) were presented with the Peter Myers Distinguished Service Award for their leadership in agriculture and public service.



On the final day, youth delegates visited the **Missouri Department of Conservation's** Runge Nature Center and the **Missouri Department of Agriculture** headquarters, learning about 4-H's partnerships with these state agencies, as well as internships and scholarships available from Missouri's agricultural commodity groups and **Missouri Farm Bureau.**

4-H youth delegate highlights and survey results are included on the following page.

RESULTS



The top 3 things youth delegates said they took away from the Academy experience:

1. Networking/Relationships
2. Knowledge/Understanding of Government and State Issues
3. Exposure to Possible Career Opportunities

93% said the experience connected them to their future education and/or career plans. 86% said they are “more likely” to pursue a role in public leadership and service:

- “I discovered I might be strongly interested in working with Missouri government.”
- “This experience really peaked my interest in these kinds of jobs.”

Self-rated 4-H youth civic engagement skills (1=very low, 5=very high):

Item (N=14)	Average
Promoting 4-H to key partners and stakeholders	4.9
Communicating effectively with state legislators	4.8
Understanding my role as a citizen of Missouri	4.9
Explaining to others how Missouri state government works	4.8
Making decisions about my future education/career	4.6

More than 55,000 members strong, Missouri 4-H is an active, dynamic organization of young people who are learning, growing and preparing to be the leaders of today and tomorrow — making a real difference in their community, country and world. 4-H is the youth development program of the University of Missouri and the nation’s Cooperative Extension System. For more information, please visit <http://4h.missouri.edu>.

(Photos courtesy of Missouri General Assembly, MU Extension, and University of Missouri Extension 4-H Center for Youth Development)