International Teamwork Establishes 4-H Youth Development Program in Guanajuato, Mexico

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Introduction Through a new international partnership with the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences and Penn State Cooperative Extension with the University of Guanajuato, Institute of Agriculture, a far-reaching youth development program is being developed. With a new cooperative agreement in hand, both colleges are launching new initiatives in agriculture and youth development. 4-H will be established in approximately five communities reaching approximately 1000 youth in the first year.

Purpose of Poster By sharing information at the AIAEE conference about this new 4-H youth development program, awareness will be raised among colleagues interested in international youth development about the approaches used to build the foundation of the 4-H youth development program in Mexico. With an accelerated interest in 4-H being firmly established in other Spanish speaking countries, this poster can help communicate strategies for building the groundwork for youth development in other countries.

Major points or Information to be Shared The following points will be highlighted:
How extension and the 4-H program will be implemented in Guanajuato
How the university and community support will be established
How and what training will be organized
How audience needs will be determined
Future plans

Conclusions The 4-H Youth Development program in Guanajuato will be successful and well-organized. The universities, elected officials and volunteers are committed to creating a meaningful program that will benefit youth in the state of Guanajuato. A variety of program delivery strategies will be implemented that best fit each community and its demographics.

Educational Importance The establishment of 4-H in Guanajuato is a huge step in believing in the future of their youth. Because 4-H has an excellent reputation in building self-esteem, leadership, life skills, responsibility and the principles of integrity and ethical behavior in youth, the 4-H youth development program is being seen as a very important component of a youth’s education in Mexico. Through this initiative with the guidance of faculty and staff at Penn State, 4-H will become firmly established not only through schools, but also in communities with facilities where the youth in 4-H Clubs can meet and learn.