

Shirley C. Eagan



Shirley C. Eagan was born March 29, 1942, graduated cum laude from Marshall University in 1964 with a B.A. in Vocational Home Economics. She went on to earn a M.Ed. degree in Adult Education and Guidance and Counseling from North Carolina State University in 1969, and an Ed.D. from WVU in Higher Education and Adult Education in 1985.

During her 32 years with the WVU Cooperative Extension Service, she benefitted all phases of West Virginia Extension – agriculture, family life, forestry, 4-H and community development – and provided numerous educational opportunities for men, women and local communities.

She worked as a home demonstration agent in Jackson County, an Extension education coordinator in Parkersburg, and as an Extension specialist for program development. She was division leader of personal and family development, and involved in the Volunteer Leadership Program. She retired in 1996 as a professor in the WVU Extension Service.

She was liaison between the Extension Service and the Continuing Education Outreach Service (CEOS). Under her leadership, CEOS membership reached over 8,000. She initiated the “Certified Volunteer Hours” program to document the impact of CEOS activities. In 2016, CEOS crossed the million-dollar line in service value to families in West Virginia.

She wrote numerous popular educational articles for *The Virginian*, including “Women’s Work: Never Done,” “People Make a Difference,” and “It Takes Two.” Her writings were frequently requested by other state Extension Services for use in their programs. She also supported other Extension faculty to attend state and national training sessions so they could write similar articles and teach workshops locally.

Eagan was instrumental in bringing to West Virginia the Family Community Leadership program – a project of the grassroots, volunteer National Association for Family and Community Education.

She was active member of several organizations. She was a member of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences since her undergrad days, served as president of the West Virginia Association of Family and Consumer Sciences from 1987-1988, was advisory from 1990-1996 in the West Virginia Association for Extension Family and Consumer Sciences, was a life member of the West Virginia Association of 4-H Agents, was treasurer and president of the West Virginia Association for Volunteer Administration, and was president of the Morgantown branch of the American Association of University Women from 1972-1974, 1999-2002 and 2006. She was also a member of Extension Service Honorary Epsilon Sigma Phi and Gamma Sigma Delta, and agriculture, forestry and family life honorary.

She spent numerous hours in her retirement sorting, filing and preserving the archives of Jackson's Mill 4-H camp, and "was only a phone call away" when needed as a speaker, according to one nominator. She was inducted into the 4-H All-Stars in 1994, presented with the 4-H Distinguished Service Award in 1994, and received the Award for Excellence in Programming from the West Virginia Association of Extension 4-H in 1993 for her work in volunteer leadership development. In 2003, she was named a "Special Friend of Jackson's Mill."