

Reita Jean Marks



Dr. Reita Marks has spent much of her life working in Extension, higher education, public schools, and community service.

After eight years as teacher and guidance counselor in the New Jersey public school system, Marks returned to her West Virginia roots in 1965 and served as a 4-H Extension specialist and Extension professor at West Virginia University, where she stayed until her retirement in 1994. While there, she served in various 4-H and WVU Faculty Senate leadership roles, and as project director of the President's Higher Education Advocacy Team. She was recognized as a 4-H All Star because of her dedication to 4-H.

Marks was instrumental in helping rural youths develop into their greatest potential through Career Awareness Camps and other activities. She worked closely with youths in the livestock program at the state fair. She developed the first camping leadership development certificate program in the state. Through her efforts in 4-H camping program development, she influenced the lives of young people in every West Virginia county.

She is considered by many of her peers to be one of the top 10 women Extension workers in the state. She has shared her knowledge with other Extension Service leaders throughout the Northeast and given presentations at several conferences around the country. Marks is a nationally recognized leader in 4-H camping, and internationally for leading West Virginia's participation in the International 4-H Youth Exchange program.

Marks has been honored by several University, Extension Service, and national organizations including: WVU Order of Vandalia; Extension Distinguished Service and Superior Service Awards, WVU Outstanding Teacher; member of Mountain, WVU Honorary; Distinguished Service Award, West Virginia 4-H All Stars; Meritorious Service Award, Epsilon Sigma Phi; and 25-Year Recognition, National Association of Extension 4-H Agents.