

## LGFCU Excellence in Innovation Award Project Evaluation

<b>Project ID</b>	PIP-4
<b>Title of Program</b>	Lee County Young Commissioners Leadership Program
<b>Program Category</b>	Public Information and Participation
<b>Submission Date</b>	5/5/2016 11:26:15 AM
<b>County</b>	Lee
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<b>Implementation Date</b>	12:00:00 AM
<b>FLSA Designation</b>	Both (if applicable to a team)
<b>Project Team Members</b>	Kirk D. Smith, Lee County Commissioner

### Description of Productivity Improvement

The success of Lee County Young Commissioners Leadership Program is evident as the former participants are now acting as mentors to the newest students. They participate in monthly alumni meetings and have expanded interacting with their State Legislative representatives. One student Jahaira Aguirre is a member of the Governor's Page Program for the State of North Carolina. .

### Description of why this project was initiated

This project was initiated because as a former high school and college teacher, I discovered our young adults had little or no understanding of their local governments. In December of 2012, I started working with the Lee county 4-H Youth Development Bill Stone, to put together a intensive two week summer program that had evolved into a continual year-round project involving the former participants..

The Lee County Young Commissioners Leadership Program is specifically tailored for local government and is a spin-off of the North Carolina Youth Education Summit held annually in the state capital.

The Founders intended our government to retain its power and authority at the local level. The purpose of the Lee County Young Commissioners Leadership Program is to instill in our young citizens an appreciation and understanding of our local governments.

**Quantifiable results (sustainability, cost savings, cost avoidance and/or a higher level of service).**

**Indication of what resources were used and what was done with any accrued time savings**

Of the 36 Alumni since the summer of 2013, we have 24 active students attending monthly meetings and they are currently drafting Bylaws for their Alumni group. Along with monthly meetings the group during 2015 were volunteers in a variety of community service projects: Christian United Outreach Center (CUOC) food distribution, CUOC Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, Stop Hunger Now, Salvation Army Bell Ringing, and assembling Christmas Care Packages for our service men and women.

The Alumni traveled to Raleigh to meet with their state legislative representatives, and participated in a leadership challenge course at the Betsy-Jeff Penn 4-H Camp near Reidsville, North Carolina.

The resources used to conduct this program came from the 4-H program budget, contribution from a community church, adult volunteers acting as chaperons, and nominal funds from a County Commissioner's travel expense account.

**Other descriptive information**

The program consists of a two week long summer session with daily classes about 3 - 4 hours each. The goal of this program is to increase leadership competencies, to better understand the role of local government, and increase knowledge of county resources as well available services. The sessions are hands on with guest speakers, team building exercises, interactive workshops, and field trips to watch local government in action. The students have attended the Lee County Commission and Sanford City Council meetings.

Topics covered in the daily classes include: job application, resume, and interview skills for employment. The students also engage in parliamentary procedures, networking, building confidence through public speaking, career skills, as well business and dining etiquette. They have developed into responsible and pro-active participants in their community. It has been a pleasure to observe the changes from the first day as most are quiet and reserve, to see these young people develop into a involved and active citizen.