

NEAFCS Hall of Fame Nomination 2019

Ruth Jackson started as a participant of the EFNEP program, then participated as an advisory member, and then, was hired in November 1978, as a Program Aide. She worked for 20 years with the University of Arizona, received two degrees and took over the coordination of the Maricopa County EFNEP staff as a faculty member. Ruth was awarded Continuing Status (Tenure) in 2007 and then retired in 2011. She came back part-time soon after retirement to accomplish special projects for FCHS at the University of Arizona.

During Ruth's work, a highlight for her was when she joined NEAFCS in 1998 as a new faculty member. Ruth felt supported by a community of like-minded individuals and jumped right in to learn and then to serve. Here are some of her NEAFCS highlights on a county, state and national level:

- In 1998 Ruth started a program called *Extension Connection* designed to increase knowledge and skills for people in a workforce program at a local Community Center. This program used multiple Extension educational programs from NEAFCS sessions to increase and enhance the basic ability of families to work in their communities, in the work force, and give to society in a productive way. This program was featured in the UA College of Agriculture's, *Impacts*, under the title *Project S.T.R.I.D.E.*
- From 2005-2006 she was elected NEAFCS *Vice President, Member Resources.*
- Ruth received the Distinguished Service Award, Galaxy III, Indianapolis, in September 2008.
- Later, Ruth received the NEAFCS Continued Excellence Award in Portland, Maine in September 2010.
- In 2014, Ruth co-chaired the Western Regional EFNEP Conference held in Arizona.
- In Arlington, VA on March 22, 2017, while attending the *EFNEP Building for the Future 2017 National Coordinators' Conference*, Ruth C. Jackson was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from the United States Department of Agriculture for 38 years of service to EFNEP.

Ruth has lived her life for others—it started in raising her own children, then educating others in the community, to taking care of her grandmother at the end of her life, to empowering her staff and community. She has lived by example and she has loved others selflessly as she has worked to lift them higher. If there was anyone who deserves this nomination, it is Ruth Jackson! It is without hesitation that I whole-heartedly give this nomination.