

PIERSON

from Page 12

greatest joys of my career. Watching young people grow in confidence, leadership, and responsibility through 4-H experiences will never stop being rewarding."

From all that 4-H encompasses, she is constantly reminded of the power of practical learning and supportive adults. Those positive youth-adult relationships where adults show their confidence in youth and in turn, the youth exude self-confidence.

"I cherish seeing youth challenge themselves, try new things, and discover their own potential. Those moments — when a young person recognizes their own capabili-

ties— are memories I will cherish forever."

Working alongside dedicated volunteers is what Joli valued most. Their commitment to youth and community strengthened every program, and she is incredibly grateful for their partnership.

4-H Special Interest Clubs and workshops brought skilled volunteers to teach their passions to youth, such as gardening, stitching, photography, cooking, engineering, robotics, and shooting sports— all programs which met real needs and strengthened our community.

"I am proud of what we accomplished and

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am forever grateful for the relationships built along the way," shared Joli.

Joli shared that throughout her career, she was fortunate to work with a supportive Extension and 4-H staff, and community partners who believed in the mission of Extension.

Working together they collaborated to provide research-based programs and special events for adults and youth, such as "Dining with Diabetes", "Serve it Safe", and "Polite is Right", and "Welcome to the Real World" programs, National Weather Service

Storm Spotter Training, and Outdoor Event Weather Training, IEPA Household Hazardous Waste Collection event, Safe Trick-or-Treat Night, Farm Safety Day, Mason County 4-H Discovery Day, and many more.

Her experiences define her Extension journey, and lead Joli to share the accomplishments of her career, "Illinois 4-H and Extension programs thrive due to the dedication of volunteers, partners, and Extension staff all working together."

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