

## Jessica (Krout) Williams



I was a member of Dowling Stitch, Stir and Stock 4-H club. I am also a graduate of Eastwood High School class of 1997. I attended Bowling Green State University and received a Bachelor of Science in Education in 2002 and California State University, Dominguez Hills with a Master of Arts in Educational Administration in 2013.

**How many years and what years were you involved in 4-H?** I started my 4-H career in the late 1980's and continued for about 15 years. I moved to California in the summer of 2004, and I continue to visit 4-H camp and the Wood County Fair on summer breaks as I can.

**What projects and activities were you involved in? What led you to focus on these projects and/or be involved in these activities?** The 4-H projects I completed were in clothing/textile and food/nutrition. I always had an interest in both creative outlets and did also go to state a few different times. One project that I remember I went to state for was outdoor cooking. I was very proud of this award as I was also in Girl Scouts and cooking outdoors spanned both organizations. As I got older, I was active in Jr. Fair board and served as Secretary, Vice President, and President. I also ran for Fair Queen for two years. Additionally, was a camp counselor for both Wood County 4-H Camp as well as Conservation Camp. I also assisted many times with Midnight Madness.

**Who was the most influential person in your 4-H career and why?** Jayne Roth, in my perspective, is a figure of admiration. I have incorporated numerous aspects of her leadership style into my own professional approach. To me, Jayne embodies the essence of servant leadership. Her unwavering commitment, demonstrated through countless instances of diligence, determination, and resilience, has left a lasting impression on me. All the while, she consistently envisioned ways to elevate our shared goals, ensuring that our collective achievements surpassed those of the previous year (especially coming up with bigger and better camp themes!)

**What was one of the most important skills you learned in 4-H?** Creative problem solving. Every day, I employ creative problem-solving techniques to confront challenges and find effective solutions.

**Do you regularly keep in contact with friends you met in 4-H? Share a little bit about those friends and how you connect today.** Yes. I love that Facebook keeps me up to date on my 4-H family, even my past campers! It is amazing the ways that I have found the interconnectedness that we share even if miles keep us a part. Laura Short (Duty) is still one of my best friends after 30+ years. She and I met through in 4-H in the '90s, while being camp counselors together. I was in her wedding, she in mine and we continue to share our

educator experiences (as we are both in education and process challenges together). Additionally, I had an entire table of 4-H alum at my wedding, and Doug Michaelis was even my wedding DJ!

**How has 4-H impacted your life?** 4-H has played a pivotal role in shaping my leadership abilities, influencing my commitment to a life of service, and driving my career in education. Serving as a camp counselor through 4-H significantly influenced my decision to pursue a teaching profession, enhancing not only my communication skills but also refining my capabilities as a public speaker and school district leader.

**What is/was your occupation/career and job title?** I am a district level school support administrator. My job title is Administrative Coordinator, Arts Education for the Los Angeles Unified School District. I work with administrators, teachers, and arts partners to ensure that all students in the district have access to standards-based arts curriculum and instruction. I started my career in education as a visual arts teacher and 10 years ago pivoted to working as an administrator.

***See photos of Jessica's 4-H experience below!***



Jessica (Krout) Williams and Laura (Duty) Short at Wood County 4-H Camp



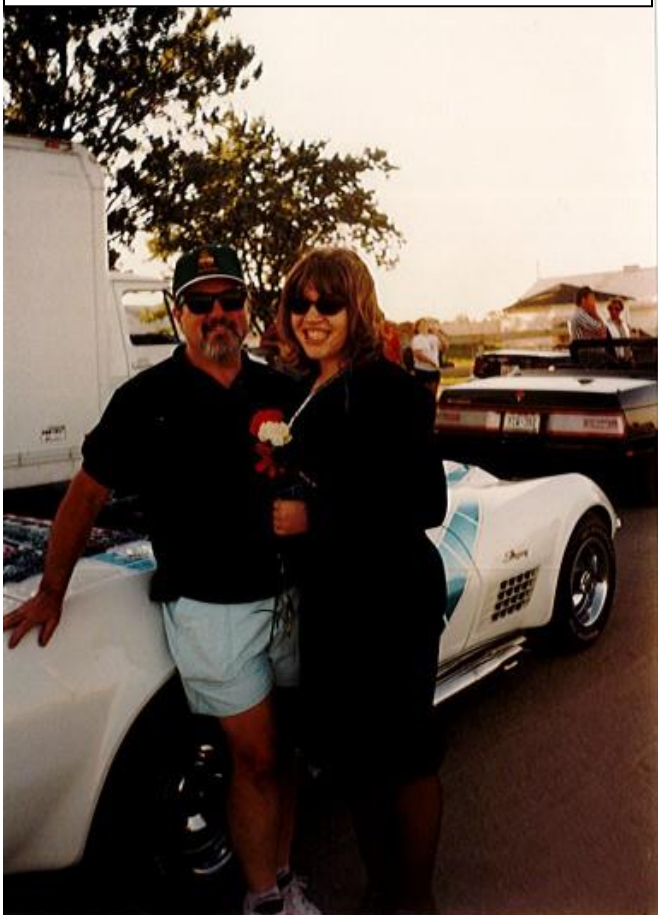
Receiving an award presented by Jayne Roth (past 4-H Educator)



1997 Conservation Camp with Harmony Tahy



Junior Fair Queen Candidate with Father at  
Wood County Fair Parade



Jessica (Krout) Williams, Kristin (Shank) Lee,  
and Libby (Koerner) Issitt

