Thanks, Barb, for 35 years in Nebraska Extension

By Ron Rosati, NCTA Dean
Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

The Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture salutes Barbara Scharf of Curtis for 35 years of dedicated service to the University of Nebraska.

Barb is retiring at the end of the month as extension educator and unit leader of Frontier County Extension. Last Friday, I was privileged to join nearly 200 friends and colleagues who gathered at NCTA to honor Barb. We had a wonderful celebration of her long career.

The daughter of a farm family from Chappell, Nebraska, Barb launched her career at the East Campus of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Barb’s allegiance to the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service (now Nebraska Extension) and Nebraska Cornhuskers has been steadfast.

She has provided unwavering leadership and education not only to residents of Southwest Nebraska but to all areas of 4-H programming and adult education throughout the state.

It’s been quite a pleasure for me to work with Barb and her husband John in community activities. I have appreciated having Barb on campus, as she is always ready with a smile and enthusiastic greeting. I value Barb’s input and advice, as I do John’s. They exemplify the cream of Nebraska’s rural farming families.

I have been especially appreciative to learn of the role that Barb has played as a key leader in many aspects at NCTA’s campus. For example, she was instrumental in having the county extension office moved to the college and that proximity has provided us with some great partnership opportunities.

I’ve appreciated how well we could work together to creatively and efficiently provide services to the people we serve in Frontier County. This type of partnership would not be possible if it weren’t for Barb’s dedication, intelligence, integrity and compassion for her work.

For 35 years, Barb and 4-H volunteers have been providing outstanding youth development to the state. Through 4-H, she’s provided a structure for building families, and provided a venue for parents and children to experience achievement and success.

Barb’s been teaching youth about leadership, cooperation, and self-esteem through a long series of wholesome family activities. She’s been educating our community through her weekly newspaper column, her extension outreach activities, and her responsibilities on various boards and organizations such as Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department, Nebraska Rural Radio Association, and Nebraska State Fair activities.
She is a caring and compassionate member of our community as demonstrated by her work with Teammates, where she is a founding board member and a current mentor.

Barb, thank you for everything you have done for us. Your legacy stands as a model for service to one’s community. I also want to thank John and your daughter, Stephanie. You’ve helped us build a much stronger community and we wish you the best in your retirement.

- Ron Rosati, Dean
Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

**NCTA Mission:**

_The Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture is devoted to a statewide mission of preparing students for successful careers in agriculture, veterinary technology, food and related industries. The college provides open access to innovative technical education resulting in associate degrees, certificates, diplomas and other credentials._

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