

June 17, 2009

Dear Educator:

Subject: **Accept the Challenge! National 4-H Congress**

You have a student who is part of the Missouri delegation attending National 4-H Congress from November 26 to December 2, 2009, in Atlanta, Georgia. Missouri only sends up to 30 outstanding young men and women to this event. There will be over 1,300 other young people from 48 states and several territories at Congress. The reverse side of this letter lists the delegates representing Missouri in 2009.

For many, the journey to be selected began years ago when the student set the goal to demonstrate leadership, citizenship and subject-matter competency. Your student completed an application highlighting their accomplishments that was reviewed by faculty at the University of Missouri. The finalists are now ready to embark to Atlanta!

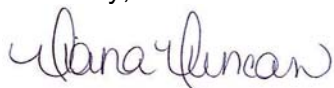
"**Accept the Challenge!**" incorporates the rich cultural and historical aspects of Atlanta. Seminars focus on managing time and resources, enhancing leadership skills, learning about cultural dances and foods, and exploring current issues. Please review the website concerning this wonderful experience at:  
<http://www.national4-hcongress.com/>

We hope that you will be able to grant the specific young person the privilege of meeting class requirements in advance or by making other arrangements to fulfill class obligations so they may participate in this once-in-a-lifetime experience. You probably know that beginning fall of 2004, a newly revised Missouri statute (171.053) makes participation of students in sanctioned activities of programs such as 4-H, FFA and FCCLA an allowable excused school absence. Further, the section provides that such participation may count as regular school attendance for the purpose of state school aid. If you want to read the full text of the statute, it can be found at: <http://www.moga.mo.gov/statutes/c100-199/1710000053.htm>

Our delegation will be traveling by coach. We are due to arrive back in Columbia, Missouri about 12:30 a.m. on December 2 and at Higginsville about 2:00 a.m.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 573-882-1936 or [duncandc@missouri.edu](mailto:duncandc@missouri.edu). Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Diana Duncan  
Interim State 4-H Specialist

## **2009 Missouri National Congress Delegation**

Caleb Adams, Stotts City  
Emily Anderson, California  
Megan Anderson, Centertown  
Hannah Bartholomew, Archie  
Teresa Borgmeyer, Cedar Hill  
Kelsey Chapman, Strafford  
Hannah Cheatum, Conway  
Jeff Durbin, Monroe City  
Kristen Ehrich, Laclede  
Adam Gerke, Smithton  
Evan Grusenmeyer, Smithville  
Dominic Habjan, Nevada  
Kelly Herman, Rolla  
Marie English, California  
Jennifer Johns, Dudley  
Katherine Kerbs, Nevada  
Anna Klem, Kirksville  
Jake Letner, Harris  
Jessi Linebaugh, Marceline  
Jared Main, Bucklin  
Dustin Oehl, Friedheim  
Garrett Pitts, Kirksville  
Hannah Rugen, Clarksburg  
Eli Sample, Annapolis  
Edward Schmidt, Moberly  
Amanda Smith, Rolla  
Megan Smith-Brehmer, Dexter  
Brandon Solomon, Bucklin  
Spenser Webb, Blue Springs  
Amy Wilsdorf, Columbia