

National 4-H Council – 2007



Gary L. Davis

Chairman, National 4-H Council Board of Trustees
Executive Vice President and Chief Human Resources and
Administration Officer, J.C. Penney

4-H Efforts: Joined Texas 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees, 1988; Chair, Program Development Committee. National 4-H Council Board of Trustees, 1996; Vice Chair, 1999; instrumental in improving board diversity. Board Chair, 2002; directed establishment of five strategic areas of focus for Council, including 4-H AfterSchool. Past Chair, J.C. Penney AfterSchool Board of Directors; Executive Committee of Junior Achievement Worldwide Board of Directors; Executive Committee, National Council of La Raza Corporate Board of Advisors; Wharton School Retail Advisory Board, U of PA; Ohio Univ. CEO Advisory Board, and many others.

Honors: Texas 4-H Citation for Outstanding Service, 1990; awarded the first Gary Davis Leadership Award by Council.

Home: Beaver, Jackson Co., Ohio
Nominated by: National 4-H Council
Year Inducted: 2007

Gary Davis was born in 1942 and lived on a farm in Jackson County, Ohio. After graduating from Ohio University with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in 1964, he joined the J.C. Penney Company as a management trainee in Marietta, OH. During his 41+ year career, he worked in four stores before being appointed store manager in Bridgeville, PA, in 1978. He went on to hold assignments as district manager in Pittsburgh and corporate assignments in New York as Director of Personnel, Director of Geographic Markets and Director of Coordination. In 1992 he was promoted to President of the Northwest Region, headquartered in Chicago, with responsibility over 400 stores in 21 states.

Gary returned to the executive offices in Dallas as Sr. Vice President in 1996 and became Executive Vice President and Chief Human Resources and Administration Officer in 1998, providing overall leadership and direction to the human resources, organizational development, communications, public affairs, executive coordination and services until retirement in 2005. Davis joined the Texas 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees in 1988. He was elected to the National 4-H Council Board of Trustees in 1996, Vice Chair in 1999 and Chair in 2002. His leadership was influential in establishing 4-H AfterSchool.

Quote: "With the objective of a better future for tomorrow for all, our focus must continue to be on our children, families and communities. Over 7 million youth in America have discovered 4-H as the youth development organization of choice to improve their knowledge and leadership skills. As leaders of the 4-H movement, we must build on and increase those numbers. We must be unwavering in our investment in high quality programs, sufficient resources and appropriate time to help all children unlock and reach the true power of their potential and capitalize on the Power of Youth. 4-H has been and will continue to be the organization best equipped to deliver these valuable components to our children and our future."



David L. Hardesty, Jr.
President, West Virginia University

4-H Efforts: President of West Virginia University, 1995-2007. Member of National 4-H Council Board of Trustees; chair 2004-06.

Honors: Received the Gary L. Davis Leadership Award from National 4-H Council for his leadership in 4-H youth development and his impact on 4-H at the state and national level.

Since becoming president of West Virginia University in 1995, David Hardesty has fostered a more student-centered university culture. New programs, including the Mountaineer Parents Club led by Mrs. Hardesty, Resident Faculty Leaders in the resident halls, a new math learning institute, a new student recreation center, investments in student-oriented technology, growth in research and sponsored program activities and enhanced advising efforts have resulted in increased enrollments. During his tenure, more than \$700 million in capital investment projects have been completed or are under way, including new research centers, a new library and science building and investments in research infrastructure and laboratories.

Home: Morgantown, West Virginia
Nominated by: National 4-H Council
Year Inducted: 2007

As a National 4-H Council Trustee, David has helped his fellow land-grant university presidents understand their unique role with 4-H. He has been pivotal at clarifying the role of the county, state and national partners. He was selected to chair the Board of Trustees in 2004-06; the first university president to serve in this position. During his tenure, top CEO's were recruited to serve on the board that have been integral at serving 4-H, especially in the area of fund development. David was awarded the Gary L. Davis Leadership Award for his leadership in 4-H youth development and his impact on 4-H at the state and national level.

Quote: In his December 2006 address to the students of WVU, President Hardesty said, "Become a citizen of the world. In doing so, you will honor the sacrifices of those who came before you, and do all you can to help those who will follow. Put your education to work solving the world's most vexing problems, and work always to create a more peaceful and more global society." This also exemplifies David's dedication to the 4-H value of giving back to your club, your community, your country and your world.