

Jackie Bruce's Bio

When people ask me, at my daughter's day care, at church, or in campus organizations, "What do you do?", I always respond with, "I'm a leadership educator". Usually, I have to explain what that means; but almost without fail people tell me that I have a pretty cool job. I think so too! I have a passion for leadership education in all its many forms. That passion is what compels me to run for the office of ALE Vice President.

Since arriving at Penn State, my charge has been to strengthen the leadership development programs within Cooperative Extension and 4-H Youth Development. For nearly six years, I have delivered training and development workshops, developed new programs and authored scholarly publications & curricula. But the program of which I am most proud is the State 4-H Leadership Conference. Prior to 2003, only 64 young people attended the event. In 2009, more than 300 came to University Park! Working with a great team to make this conference both educational AND extremely fun for the youth and adults who participate is one of the best parts of my job. Watching as participants learn, get excited, and take things back with them to implement in their home communities, is THE BEST reward a leadership educator can imagine. It is the synthesis of teaching and learning, scholarship and practice—the very purpose of leadership education itself!

Serving as ALE Vice President would give me the opportunity to bring my professional experiences to our organization in a very real way. My knack for conference planning and leadership programming will allow me to assist our organization in its growth at the same time that it pushes me to grow as a leader. Should I be so honored as to be your next VP, I would focus my efforts in two areas: the growth and development of our annual conference and making sure that our board provides strong service to ALE members. The opportunity to come together as a profession offers boundless personal and professional rewards. I would work to ensure that our conference provides our members plenty of networking, practical professional development, and energizing opportunities. Furthermore, the success of our association depends on having an ALE board that serves you all, our membership. It would be my challenge and my privilege, working in concert with other board members, to see to it that ALE continues to be a strong association that works with and for our members!