We are so fortunate as 4-H Educators that Professional Development comes in so many different “packages.” I think of this often and was reminded of the fact while setting up for State Fair with colleagues these last few days. I am sure this has been a hectic and at times overwhelming summer for many of us with the abundance of summer responsibilities related to our profession, whether it be Fairs, Camps or Special Interest programs, but there are many opportunities for “informal” professional development that can come about throughout this very busy season. I have to say that even with the hustle and bustle that comes and goes with the NYS Fair, there is something uplifting about the time spent networking with colleagues and developing young people through leadership opportunities. Working and staying at the State Fair allows us many occasions to develop ourselves professionally by relating to one another’s successes and challenges and supporting each other in program growth and improvement as a state.

Speaking of professional development, I hope you have had a chance to register for our Annual State Conference. The workshops, speakers, panels and venue are top-notch! I’d like to offer kudos to the Conference Planning and Professional Development committees for their tireless work in rolling so much into three short days. If you have not had a chance to register yet, it is not too late and although the early-bird discount is no longer the conference fee is still well worth the time you will spend learning and laughing with your colleagues.

With the summer winding down and so much past us, and so much ahead I think of the many versions of professional development workshops and presentations that we have participated in that remind us to balance home life and work life. This is as much of a reminder to me as it is to all of you, please take time to unwind with friends and family, enjoy your children’s start of school, take some time for you to breathe and just be. This “me” time will also work to enhance us professionally as we move into yet another fabulous year as NYS 4-H professionals.

“"No matter what profession you go into there will always be someone with more money, talent or luck than you. Happiness and contentment cannot be defined by being the most successful or winning first place. If that is what is most important to you, your life will be more frustrating than satisfying. The pursuit of success or first place is not a bad thing, but it should not be the only thing. True happiness is found from doing the best you can with what you have."”

Glenn Brunkow, 4-H Today, Life Lessons and the Ultimate Premium, August 15, 2014

Have you seen the website?  Visit: http://nys4h.cce.cornell.edu/staff/Pages/NYSACCE4-HE.aspx