



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Iowa Team Receives Excellence in Extension Grant
from American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences**

Alexandria, VA – June 30, 2004 – Jeanne Warning, Betty Trost, CFCS, Lesia Oesterreich, Sharon Mays, Eugenia Hanlon, and Cynthia Needles Fletcher of Iowa State University; Kris Gross, Iowa Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (IAFCS) public policy co-chair; and Sue Jorgensen, president of the American Association of University Women, received the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) Excellence in Extension Grant at the recent 95th Annual Conference & Expo in San Diego, CA.

The award was presented to the Iowa team by Deborah J. Nelson, CFCS, vice president services, during the Recognition Luncheon. The purpose of the Excellence in Extension Grant is to provide seed money for programs designed to enhance the well-being of families, support the efforts of the Association, and expand the Cooperative Extension program efforts.

Jeanne Warning and her team received the grant for the "Child Care Lasts a Lifetime Campaign" launched in response to statistics showing that Iowa families have the highest percentage in the nation of employed parents with children under age six and Iowa, in comparison to three other Midwestern states, has more low-quality child care centers and family child care homes, especially for infant and toddler care. Low-quality child care not only puts children's health and safety at risk but also their development. The campaign will be implemented in three phases: awareness, education, and public policy. The AAFCS grant will help to fund the public policy phase of the campaign, which consists of ten community forums throughout Iowa to engage families, providers, and community leaders in discussion about improving and ensuring quality child care. The findings will be gathered, summarized, and disseminated to the participants, legislators, and decision makers.

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About the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS)

Based in the Washington, D.C., area, AAFCS is the only association for family and consumer sciences students and professionals across multiple practice settings and content areas. For more than 100 years, AAFCS has focused its mission on providing leadership and support for professionals whose work assists individuals, families, and communities in making more informed decisions about their well-being, relationships, and resources to achieve optimal quality of life. AAFCS members provide research-based knowledge about the topics of everyday life to help create healthy and sustainable families. These topics include human development, personal and family finance, housing and interior design, food science, nutrition and wellness, textiles and apparel, and consumer issues. AAFCS members are located nationwide, and include educators, administrators and managers, human service and business professionals, researchers, community volunteers, and consultants who develop research-based information and deliver programs on essential skills to help individuals and families be better prepared to live, work, and succeed in today's complex and diverse world.

Field of Family & Consumer Sciences

Family and consumer sciences (FCS) draws from broad and diverse disciplines to develop and provide content and programs that help individuals become more effective critical thinkers and problem solvers. Through discovery and delivery of research-based knowledge, FCS professionals help individuals and families develop essential skills to successfully live and work in a complex world. Professionals in the field are uniquely qualified to speak on many critical issues affecting individuals and families, such as maintaining a healthy lifestyle, wisely managing personal and family finances, and creating supportive relationships with family members, friends, and co-workers. They are located nationwide in a variety of practice settings, including secondary schools, universities, government agencies, and businesses.

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