

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Birdsell Receives National "New Achievers" Award

Alexandria, Va. – July 28, 2014 – The American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) honored its New Achievers Award recipient and other award recipients at a ceremony during the 105th Annual Conference & Expo in St. Louis, Missouri, on June 27th. Hilary Birdsell, family and consumer science educator, Central Public Schools, Norwood Young America, Minnesota, was selected for the prestigious award.

"I would like to take a moment to thank you for choosing me for the National New Achiever Award," said Birdsell. "I am so very passionate about what I teach and the time commitment I have made to the program to demonstrate the importance of FCS education. Thank you so much for this honor."

Initiated in 1984, the AAFCS New Achievers Award recognizes emerging professionals who are demonstrating through their innovative programs or curricula the potential for making significant contributions in family and consumer sciences. Award recipients are professionals with three to eight years of service in the field.

During Birdsell's seven years as a family and consumer sciences educator, she has developed curriculum for 10 classes, including foods, child development, family life skills, and interior design. When creating each curriculum, Birdsell tries to incorporate a wide variety of learning experiences, such as field trips or service learning projects, to enrich the class and works to articulate her classes for college credits. An active member in her community and at the state level, Birdsell participates in local 4-H judging, is co-chair of the Awards/Recognitions, Scholarships, and Best Practice Grants for the Minnesota Affiliate of AAFCS, and has presented at two Minnesota State Conferences.

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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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