

## Backgrounder

# American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) Teacher of the Year Award

### **Origin of the Teacher of the Year Award**

In 1974, the American Home Economics Association (now American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences) entered into a partnership with *Family Circle* magazine to establish the Home Economics Teacher of the Year Program. In co-sponsoring the award, *Family Circle*, a division of the New York Times Company, recognized that the “home economics teaching profession is a vital force in the classroom and in the community.” Its original purpose was two-fold: 1) to promote excellence in the teaching of home economics at the elementary and secondary levels; and 2) to identify outstanding educational activities that can provide stimulus for other teachers throughout the country. *Family Circle* continued its co-sponsorship of the award for a seven-year period, 1974 – 1980.

Instantly popular with a large cross-section of the AHEA membership, the Home Economics Teacher of the Year Program became known as the “Teacher of the Year” award or Teacher of the Year award. The Teacher of the Year award was designed as a national competition among winners of the competition at the affiliate level. While changes have been made to the award, the original concept has remained the same for the award’s 36-year history.

### **The Teacher of the Year Award Today**

Although the curriculum has changed dramatically to meet the needs of cultural and societal changes, the Teacher of the Year award is still awarded for outstanding and innovative family and consumer sciences (FCS) curriculum. The American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) Teacher of the Year award identifies and recognizes exemplary teachers who exhibit a deep commitment to the profession and the Association. All affiliate Teacher of the Year awardees have demonstrated outstanding teaching with educational programs that utilize methods, techniques, and activities that integrate the core curriculum, and that provide the stimulus for and give visibility to FCS elementary and secondary education. Each nominated program must focus on one of the following areas of FCS: career awareness/job skill training, consumer education/family finance, creative dimensions/alternative program designs, family life/personal and social development, or nutrition education/diet and health.

The selection process begins with AAFCS affiliates administering a Teacher of the Year competition and selecting its affiliate Teacher of the Year. AAFCS encourages all affiliates to enter their state Teacher of the Year into the national competition. At the national level through a rigorous peer-review process, up to three Teacher of the Year merit finalists and one National Teacher of the Year are selected from up to 52 affiliate Teachers of the Year. The National Teacher of the Year is selected based upon the following criteria: integration of FCS with the core academics and educational standards; exemplary level of professional commitment to FCS; goals and outcomes of the program; sustainability of the program; creativity, innovation, and cutting-edge techniques in the program; ability to sustain funding and overcome obstacles or challenges; positive influence on the lives of students; relevancy and timely impact on the students, school, and community; and increasing the visibility, recognition, and support of the FCS profession within the community. The Teachers of the Year receive recognition during the

AAFCS Annual Conference & Expo at the Opening General Session and Teacher of the Year Award Luncheon, sponsored by Goodheart-Willcox Publisher.

### 1994 – 2013 AAFCS National Teachers of the Year

2013 – Marsha Carter <i>Florence, Alabama</i>	2003 – Elizabeth Jane Steiner, CFCS <i>Waveland, Indiana</i>
2012 – Lois Lewis, CFCS <i>Birchdale, Minnesota</i>	2002 – Barbara S. Cannon <i>Belmont, North Carolina</i>
2011 – Sharon Baillie, CFCS <i>Burgettstown, Pennsylvania</i>	2001 – Sharon Presson Cunningham, CFCS <i>Ashburn, Virginia</i>
2010 – Nancy Malafatopoulos <i>Fairfield, Connecticut</i>	2000 – Sally Fairchild, CFCS <i>Cedar Rapids, Iowa</i>
2009 – Susan M. Turgeson, CFCS <i>Menomonie, Wisconsin</i>	1999 – Becky A. Newell, CFCS <i>Lafayette, Indiana</i>
2008 – Mary W. Ludwig <i>Louisville, Kentucky</i>	1998 – Eleanor L. Keppler <i>Indianapolis, Indiana</i>
2007 – Kendra K. Naef, CFCS <i>Kimberly, Wisconsin</i>	1997 – Jennifer A. Tabor <i>Sterling, Alaska</i>
2006 – Sylvia R. Cifelli, CFCS <i>Swansea, Massachusetts</i>	1996 – Roxanne L. Trees <i>Seattle, Washington</i>
2005 – Ann Anderson <i>Duncanville, Texas</i>	1995 – Jean R. Pryzbylkowski <i>Lancaster, Pennsylvania</i>
2004 – Carol Ann Watkins, CFCS <i>Hinesville, Georgia</i>	1994 – Julene Kay Swenson <i>Stillwater, Minnesota</i>

### 1974 – 1993 AHEA National Teachers of the Year

1993 – Marilyn Swierk, RI	1983 – Helen Ann Beeman, MS
1992 – Janice Hall, AL	1982 – JoAnn Thompson Burnett, OK
1991 – Marie Ponzillo, CT	1981 – Jan Robertson, WA
1990 – Joan H. Odom, FL	1980 – Betty S. Dickerson, SC
1989 – Phyllis Lamima, MD	1979 – Nancy Clemons, FL
1988 – Eva Mae Lloyd, KY	1978 – Pat Rawald, CA
1987 – Sharon Fox, NM	1977 – Maxine Rowley, UT
1986 – Amy H. Clark, SC	1976 – Dorothy Blanchard, MA
1985 – Virginia L. Teemer, OR	1975 – Mary Jo Wright Poindexter, CA
1984 – Jeannette C Simpson, FL	1974 – Mercy Butteroff, UT