

Nancy Malafatopoulos
American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS)
2010 National Teacher of the Year

A highly dedicated and experienced family and consumer sciences (FCS) teacher at Fairfield Warde High School, Fairfield, Connecticut, Nancy Malafatopoulos redesigned her Fashion 20 class to incorporate “Trash + Fashion = Trashion,” a unit that challenges second-year students to create stunning garments from recycled materials and raise awareness about the importance of recycling and reusing materials to help the environment.

During her distinguished career, Malafatopoulos has taught family and consumer sciences and math at the secondary-school level for more than 20 years. In addition to teaching at Fairfield Warde High School, she is currently the summer school principal and FCS department chair and liaison with direct responsibility for the department’s development of 13 curricula. She is also the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) advisor, Fashion Club advisor, member of the Carl D. Perkins Advisory and Planning Board, Assessment Committee co-chair for New England Accreditation of Secondary Schools and Colleges (NEASC), and student teacher advisor. Malafatopoulos coordinates fashion scholarships for summer and secondary programs and receives additional funding for the FCS department through successful grant writing.

Outside of the classroom, Malafatopoulos uses her family and consumer sciences skills to help improve the quality of life for countless individuals and families. She facilitated the design, construction, and delivery of quilts and assisted in the recovery and rebuilding of homes for victims of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. Additionally, Malafatopoulos has coordinated FCCLA fundraising efforts to benefit breast cancer research, Feed the Children, and the Children’s Miracle Network. During Earth Day this year, she will increase environmental awareness in her community by coordinating a “Trashy Fashion Show” with student-made garments from recycled materials and a recycling boutique that sold items made from recycled materials. Proceeds from the boutique will be donated to the Children’s Miracle Network.

To stay on the leading-edge of her field, Malafatopoulos is a member of AAFCS, the Connecticut Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (CTAFCS), National Education Association, and Fairfield Warde High School Parent Teacher Association (PTA), and attends conferences and trainings. For CTAFCS she serves as program assistant chair and presents workshops. In 2009, Malafatopoulos was honored with the PTA Administrative Award to recognize her outstanding leadership to teachers on a path towards administrative certification.

Malafatopoulos is a resident of Stratford, Connecticut, and earned a bachelor’s degree in home economics and clothing and textiles and master’s degree in education from Framingham State College in Massachusetts. She has an associate’s degree in fashion merchandising from FIT (Fashion Institute of Technology) in New York City, is certified to teach family and consumer sciences in pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade, and holds an administrative certification.