

# Building a Strong Network:

## 14 Years of Summer Support for Family & Consumer Sciences Teachers

**Date:**

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

**Time:**

4:00--5:00 pm, CST

**Google Meet:**



**Prepared by:**

- Delaine Stendahl
- Amy Stewart

## Description of Presentation

This presentation highlights the 14-year history, purpose, and measurable impact of an annual summer workshop that brings together Family & Consumer Sciences teachers from across the United States, and offers practical strategies for educators—especially those struggling in their programs—to support colleagues, create peer-mentoring relationships, and build sustainable professional networks that improve retention, classroom outcomes, and program viability; attendees will leave with concrete next steps for outreach, peer observation, shared resources, and low-cost virtual and in-person collaboration models can implement immediately to strengthen local and national FCS communities.

## Outline

### I. Welcome & Purpose

- Introductions
- Overview of session goals
- Why collaboration matters in FCS education

## II. The 14-Year Journey: Building a National Summer Workshop

- Origins and purpose of the annual summer workshops (both Delaine and Amy)
- Growth and participation from across the United States
- Key milestones and lessons learned
- Measurable impact on teachers and programs

## III. Understanding Today's Challenges in FCS Programs and why it's important to attend PD's with those that do what you do

- Teacher isolation and burnout
- Program sustainability concerns
- Retention challenges
- Identifying educators who may be struggling
- Creating peer-mentoring relationships
- Informal and formal mentoring models
- Encouraging peer observation and feedback
- Sharing curriculum and instructional resources
- 

## IV. Hear from those who have attended and how can you attend

- What to participants have to say
- Information about each workshop (When - Where - How)

## V. Action Planning: Immediate Next Steps

- If you are interested in hosting your own PD - What do you need to know?

## Presenter Information:

Delaine - Arcadia High School, Wisconsin ([stendahl.delaine@gmail.com](mailto:stendahl.delaine@gmail.com))

Amy - Marshall County High School, Kentucky ([amy.stewart@marshall.kyschools.us](mailto:amy.stewart@marshall.kyschools.us))

Delaine, a retired Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) teacher from Wisconsin, dedicated 47.5 years to the classroom, inspiring generations of students through hands-on learning that built essential life skills, confidence, and creativity. Amy is a current FCS teacher in Kentucky with 22 years of teaching experience, committed to equipping students with practical skills ranging from culinary arts to personal finance.

Over the past 14 years, Delaine and Amy have hosted various professional development opportunities for FCS teachers. Despite the 565 miles between Wisconsin and Kentucky, they have collaborated across state lines to support and enhance each other's workshops, demonstrating their shared passion for strengthening and advancing FCS education and the educators in it.

**Workshop Link:** [Sixth Annual Family & Consumer Sciences Culinary Workshop](#)