



Debra (Deb) Andres, MS

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Why did I say yes to the FCS Profession? Why did I say yes to AAFCS membership? Why did I say yes to a board position?

I was in a high school Home Economics class almost every year but never considered it as a career option until we had a long-term substitute in the Home Ec Room my senior year. Maybn Mackolus was a retired HEc teacher who covered my regular teacher's maternity leave. I was a student aid to the Home Ec teacher and thus had a lot of responsibility placed on me during her leave. Mrs. Mackolus and I hit it off from the start. She entrusted me with much more responsibility than I had had before – even helping to write a fairly exhaustive report for the State Department of Education! Dr. Virginia Moxley was my advisor in college. She recruited me in to involvement in organizations, including KSHEA (Kansas Student Home Economics Association – predecessor to the AAFCS student unit.) I have experienced the value of being an AAFCS member for my entire career in a variety of ways. The timing was right for me to again “Say Yes to FCS” as an AAFCS Board member.

CURRENT AND PAST CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

1993 – KAFCS New Achiever Award
1996 – National Teacher of the Year Top Ten Awardee
1999 – KATFACS Teacher of the Year
2000 – K-CTE Young Teacher of the Year
2001 – KS Department of Education, Leadership Grant Awardee
2009 – KAFCS Leaders Award
2011 – K-ACTE Carl Perkin Outstanding Service Award
2013 – KATFACS/K-CTE Outstanding Career & Technical Educator
2013 – Kansas State University Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award
2015 – K-State Research & Extension Outstanding Mentor
2019 – KAFCS Outstanding Extension Educator Award
2020 – AAFCS Board Member, Director at Large
2023 – 2024 AAFCS President

WHAT SPECIFIC SKILLS PREPARED ME TO BECOME A BOARD MEMBER?

Extensive experience in and passion for developing and leading team-centered collaborative efforts have been the foundation of my leadership endeavors. Additionally, I am extremely committed to the AAFCS organization as a whole, but especially to the members that are the backbone of the organization. I am a charter member of the AAFCS Leadership Academy planning team and have been one of the presenters/coaches every year the Academy has been held.

WHEN I THINK ABOUT AAFCS, WHAT AM I PASSIONATE ABOUT?

We focus on the human condition – striving through our research, resource development and program implementation, to improve the quality of life for individuals and families. We are committed to service within each of the micro-professions of Family and Consumer Sciences field we specialize in.

MY DEGREES & SCHOOL, CERTIFICATES AND CREDENTIALS

2002-2010	Courses taken from Kansas State University
Spring 2000	Courses taken from Emporia State University
1994-1997	Master of Science, Family Studies and Human Services, Kansas State University
1984-1988	Bachelor of Science, Vocational Home Economics Education, Kansas State University 9-12 Home Economics Teaching Certificate, Occupational Education Endorsement
2013-Present	SHICK Counselor (Senior Health Insurance Counselor for Kansas)
2016-Present	ServSafe Certified Food Protection Manager
2018-Present	Strengthening Families 7-17 Certified Train the Trainer
2020-Present	National Dining with Diabetes Program facilitator

MEET MY FAMILY

I have been married to my best friend, Duane, for 32 years. Together we have had 2 children and adopted two additional children. Our oldest child, Jessica, died in a horseback riding accident when she was 8. We then had our son Mark who is now in his sophomore year at college. Our middle son, Joey, recently graduated high school and our youngest, Zach, is a senior in high school. The younger two are all sports while our oldest prefers the books. For the first 29 years of our marriage, we lived on our family farm, raising crops, cattle, chickens, and a large garden. Our children have been in 4-H with as many as 14 different projects in any given year and we have been very active in church life and with our church family. From serving as co-pastors for 15 years, to singing in the choir, teaching bible study, organizing VBS - to changing light bulbs, taking out the trash, and tracking down advent candles, we strive to give with a servant's heart.