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Bruce Ferree
Compliance Manager

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TO:
American Assn. of Family & Consumer Sciences
400 N. Columbus St. Ste. 202
Alexandria, VA 22314

I remember well working with the AAFCS staff and team of volunteers to develop the Pre-Professional Assessment and Certification in Food Science. It was truly a labor of love and devotion to the profession that drove me to assist with this task. I personally believe in the utility of certifications as a method to confirm that a given level of knowledge and ability has been achieved.

The AAFCS 'Food Science Assessment and Certification' definitely supports the role of assessment and certification of skills that are needed in industry. It also prepares students for careers in the food service, food manufacturing and food handling industries.

As an employer in food manufacturing, I have shared with our Human Resources department that this certification is worthwhile and assures that potential employees know the basic needs for food safety and quality in food manufacturing. Students that have achieved this certification have a very real advantage in a competitive job market.

I also believe that this certification can be used in education to assure that students are knowledgeable after classes/courses are completed. In many educational situations, the assessment of students' ability to grasp and understand basic knowledge, as well as apply and objectively evaluate situational needs, can be confirmed with this assessment and certification. Education only lasts for so long. After the education process, we all move on to industry. I believe in this certification as a valid assessment, providing credentials that job seekers can use in a very competitive and modern food manufacturing, food handling and food service industry. Credentialed employees will bring a positive influence to the workplace, ensuring that others will regard them highly. Thus, the credentialed employees advance faster than non-credentialed staff.

Thank you for the opportunity to be involved in the development of this pre-PAC. Best wishes for continued success of the program. If I can help in any further way, please contact me

Bruce Ferree