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American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Announces Development of National Family and Consumer Sciences Competency Assessment

Consistent with the increasingly complex challenges faced by individuals and families living and working in a diverse global society, the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) announces the development of a national standards-based competency assessment measuring knowledge and skills in the broad field area of family and consumer sciences. The assessment is aligned with the National Standards for Family and Consumer Sciences Education.

While developed for targeted use in secondary family and consumer sciences programs teaching broad field family and consumer sciences, the assessment has application in a broad range of education, community development, staff development, and human resource settings. Adhering to gold standards for effective testing, the computer-based assessment provides a mechanism for competency measurement, program accountability, and program improvement. Successful testing will qualify individuals for recognition and documentation through a corresponding broad field family and consumer sciences pre-professional certification.

Developed by Family and Consumer Sciences Education Leaders

AAFCS has engaged the assistance of a broad range of esteemed family and consumer sciences educators and professionals from across the nation to assist in assessment development. Recognizing the value of a solid assessment tool in assuring that programs are effectively preparing individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to assume roles as family member, consumer, and community leader and for pre-professional careers requiring those skills, the following stakeholders participated on the development panel for the assessment and certification:

- Susie Brown, Child Care, Inc., New York, NY
- Marcia Copeland (Retired), General Mills, Plymouth, MN
- Juanita Mendenhall, Teen Health Promotion Coalition, Ridgeway, SC
- Jan Strand (Retired), Human Services Nonprofits, Santa Fe, NM
- Kay Wilder, San Diego Rescue Mission, San Diego, CA
- Luann Alemao, Columnist and Communications Specialist, Cedar Falls, IA
- Tina Morrow, Community Action Services, San Marcos, TX
- Toni Crouch, American Chamber of Commerce Executives, Alexandria, VA
- Sandy Markwood, National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Washington, DC
- Don Bower, Extension Human Development Specialist, University of Georgia, Athens, GA
- Carol Kellett, Former Dean and Teacher Educator, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS
- Karen Tanner Oliphant, Abraham Clark High School, Roselle, NJ
- Melissa Dittman, Butler Tech, Hamilton, OH

Product Launch and Further Information

The Broad Field Family and Consumer Sciences assessment and certification is part of a portfolio of pre-professional level assessment and industry-recognized certification products currently under development by AAFCS and will be available for use during 2009-2010. For further information please contact: Lori Myers, Director of Pre-Professional Assessment and Certification; 703-706-4600; LMyers@aafcs.org; www.aafcs.org.

The American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) national organization has a proud 100-year history of providing support and leadership for family and consumer sciences professionals. AAFCS has a well-established credentialing program that includes accreditation of university programs, professional level assessments, and certification of professionals as Certified in Family and Consumer Sciences (CFCS). AAFCS is committed to utilizing its resources and considerable grass roots network of members and other stakeholders to launch the new program with pre-professional assessments and certifications.

