THE FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES — SEAL OF EXCELLENCE
INSTITUTIONAL CREDENTIALING: ACCREDITATION of Family and Consumer Sciences University Programs

THE FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES — SEAL OF EXCELLENCE
INDIVIDUAL CREDENTIALING: CERTIFICATION of Family and Consumer Sciences Professionals

THE FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES — SEAL OF ACHIEVEMENT
ASSESSMENT of Family and Consumer Sciences Professional Competencies

THE FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES — SEAL OF RECOGNITION
INDIVIDUAL CREDENTIALING: CERTIFICATION of Pre-Professionals in Family and Consumer Sciences

THE FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES — SEAL OF MASTERY
ASSESSMENT of Family and Consumer Sciences Pre-Professional Competencies

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

With the demand for a variety of services for children and families and the growing elderly population, career opportunities in family and community services are projected to be excellent; thus, the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) announces the development of a national standards-based competency assessment measuring knowledge and skills in family and community services. The assessment is aligned with relevant content standards, the National Career Clusters Initiative, and the National Standards for Family and Consumer Sciences Education.

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 family and community services pre-professional certification. The assessment has application in a broad range of education, community-based, non-profit, staff development, and human resource settings. It is anticipated that the Family and Community Services assessment and certification will facilitate employment in early career ladder positions and promote continuing education at the post-secondary level preparing for careers that provide child, youth, and family services, social services, religious services, and community/volunteer services.

Developed by National Family and Community Services Professionals and Leaders
AAFCS has engaged the assistance of a broad range of esteemed family and community services practitioners, professionals, and educators from across the nation to assist in identifying relevant industry standards and to develop the assessment instrument. Recognizing the value of a solid assessment tool in assuring that programs are effectively preparing individuals with the knowledge and skills to provide quality services to individuals, families, and communities, the following stakeholders participated on the development panel for the assessment and certification:

- Sarah Shirley, U.S. Air National Guard Chief of Chaplains Office, Alexandria, VA
- Kirsten Bays, Family Choices Adoption Services, Charleston, IL
- Mary Bold, National Council on Family Relations, Minneapolis, MN
- Barbara Fiese, Family Resiliency Center, Urbana, IL
- Tammy Gray, Arkansas Children's Trust Fund, Little Rock, AR
- Lynda McGehee, Area Agency on Aging, Monroe, LA
- Kelly Niles-Yocum, Association for Gerontology in Higher Education, Worcester, MA
- Andy Stoker, Children, Youth, and Family Ministries, United Methodist Church, Plano, TX
- Tammy Henderson, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK
- Pamela Schulze, University of Akron, Akron, OH
- Geralyn Dries, Smyrna High School, Smyrna, DE
- Kendra Naef Scherg, Kimberly High School, Kimberly, WI

Assessment Launch and Further Information
The Family and Community Services assessment and certification are 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 2009-10. 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 pre-professional assessments and certifications.