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## American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Announces Development of National Fashion, Textiles and Apparel Competency Assessment

With Americans spending over \$250 billion on fashion (including accessories) each year, the fashion industry generates billions of dollars in revenue and employs over 4 million people in a wide spectrum of careers. To ensure that individuals are effectively prepared for those careers, the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) announces the development of a national standards-based competency assessment measuring knowledge and skills in fashion, textiles, and apparel. 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 fashion, textiles, and apparel pre-professional certification. The assessment has application in a broad range of education, staff development, and human resource settings. It is anticipated that this assessment/certification will facilitate employment in early career ladder positions and promote continuing education at the post-secondary level preparing for careers associated with retail and wholesale buying, apparel and textile development and production, fashion design, and visual merchandising.

### Developed by National Leaders and Professionals in Fashion, Textiles, and Apparel

AAFCS has engaged the assistance of a broad range of esteemed fashion, textiles, and apparel professionals, designers, 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 necessary for success in the industry, the following stakeholders participated on the development panel for the assessment and certification:

- Amy Herriott, AmericasMart, Atlanta, GA
- John Saldivar, Fashion Designer, New York, NY
- Amanda A. Coglietti, J.C. Penney, Plano, TX
- Belva Barrack, Viking Sewing Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ
- Beverly Purcell-Guerra, *San Antonio Woman* (Magazine), San Antonio, TX
- Kathy Payne, Dillard's, Little Rock, AR
- Amy Gardner, Textile Fabric Consultants, Inc., Smyrna, TN
- Abby Johnson, Zales Corporation, Dallas, TX
- Marjorie Baker, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY
- Barbara Bundy, The Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising, Encino, CA
- George Crow, Jack Yates High School, Houston, TX
- Jan Wilson, Crosby High School, Waterbury, CT

### Assessment Launch and Further Information

The Fashion, Textiles, and Apparel 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](mailto:LMyers@aafcs.org); [www.aafcs.org](http://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.

