

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

Consistent with the swelling national emphasis on financial literacy as essential for all citizens, the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) announces the development of a national standards-based competency assessment measuring knowledge and skills in the area of personal and family finance. The assessment is based on the 12th grade level *National Standards in K-12 Personal Finance Education* developed by the Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy and is consistent with the National Standards for Family and Consumer Sciences Education.

While developed for targeted use in secondary family and consumer sciences programs teaching personal and family finance, 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 personal and family finance pre-professional certification.

Developed by National Financial Services and Education Leaders

AAFCS has engaged the assistance of a broad range of esteemed personal and family finance practitioners and educators 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 for successful management of their personal and family finances, the following stakeholders participated on the development panel for the assessment and certification:

- Todd Christensen, Debt Reduction Services, Boise, ID
- John Meeks, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Raleigh, NC
- Mary Ann Campbell, Money Magic, Little Rock, AR
- Missy Tysinger, Wachovia Corporation, Charlotte, NC
- Jason Alderman, VISA U.S.A., San Francisco, CA
- William Cheeks, Jump\$tart Coalition, Powder Springs, GA
- Jeanne Hogarth, Federal Reserve Board, Washington, DC
- Nichole Chinadle, Family Economics & Financial Education (FEFE), Tucson, AZ
- Pamela Bennett, University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR
- Faye Griffiths-Smith, Cooperative Extension System, North Haven, CT
- Anna Goff, Farmington School District, Farmington, AR
- Kathryn Cox, Wake County Schools, Raleigh, NC

Assessment Launch and Further Information

The personal and family finance 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 2009-10. For further information please contact: Lori Myers, Director of the Pre-Professional Assessment and Certification (Pre-PAC) Program; 703-706-4600; lm Myers@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.

