

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

Consistent with the overwhelming national emphasis on nutrition and wellness, the startling statistics regarding obesity in America, and the important link between nutrition and disease prevention, the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) announces the development of a national standards-based competency assessment measuring knowledge and skills in nutrition. The assessment is aligned with industry 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 qualifies individuals for recognition and documentation through a corresponding nutrition pre-professional certification. The Nutrition assessment and certification address competencies and a skill set necessary for success as a pre-professional in careers with a substantial focus on nutrition. There are usage applications in a broad range of education, community-based, staff development, and human resource settings. This assessment and certification will facilitate employment in early career ladder positions and promote continuing education at the post-secondary level preparing for careers associated with nutrition, dietetics, food service, and health and wellness.

Developed by National Nutrition Leaders and Professionals

AAFCS has engaged the assistance of a broad range of esteemed nutrition professionals, leaders, practitioners, 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 effective preparation of individuals with appropriate nutrition knowledge and skills, the following stakeholders participated on the development panel for the assessment and certification:

- Shirley Blakely, Food and Drug Administration (FDA), College Park, MD
- Helen Chipman, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Washington, DC
- Roxanne Moore, Sodexo USA, Gaithersburg, MD
- Debra French, Washington State Dairy Council, Lynnwood, WA
- Roberta Duyff, Duyff Associates, Ballwin, MO
- Joan Giampaoli, The Emily Program for Eating Disorders, St. Louis Park, MN
- Elaine Molaison, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS
- Wanda Eastman, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM
- Vernell Berry, Cabot High School, Cabot, AR
- Janan Foster, Duncanville High School, Duncanville, TX

Assessment Launch and Further Information

The Nutrition 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 Spring, 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 pre-professional assessments and certifications.

