

Assessing and Recognizing Excellence Since 1971

American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Announces Launch of National Pre-Professional Competency Assessment and Certification in Leadership Essentials

The *National Association of Colleges and Employers Job Outlook 2018* survey overwhelmingly identified that employers are looking for candidates who are team players and problem solvers and who can plan, organize, and prioritize work. *Jobs for the Future (2017)* listed leadership as the top attribute sought by employers. To help ensure a quality workforce, the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) announces the launch of a national standards-based competency assessment measuring essential knowledge and skills in leadership. The assessment is aligned with industry standards, the National Career Clusters Essential Knowledge and Skills Sets, the US Department of Education Employability Skills Framework, the Career Ready Practices of the Career Technical Common Core, the 21st Century Learning Outcomes, 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 Pre-professional Certification in Leadership Essentials. There are usage applications in a broad range of secondary and post-secondary education, leadership development programs, staff development, and human resource settings. The assessment and certification address competencies and validate leadership skills and abilities of youth in preparation for leadership in their family, community, and careers.

Developed by National Panel of Leadership Experts and Professionals

AAFCS has engaged the assistance of a broad range of esteemed family and consumer sciences professionals and educators, as well as youth and adult leadership professionals from across the nation to assist in identifying relevant industry standards and develop the Leadership Essentials assessment instrument. Recognizing the value of a solid assessment tool in assuring that programs are effectively preparing individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to assume leadership roles as family members, community members, as well as a workforce filled with effective leaders. The following stakeholders participated on the development panel for the Leadership Essentials assessment and certification:

- Patty Hendrickson, Hendrickson Leadership Group, LaCrosse, WI
- Christine Hollingsworth, Family, Career, & Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), Reston, VA
- Conrad Lucas, Capitol Resources, Charleston, WV
- Vicki Ferrence Ray, Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY), Westlake Village, CA
- Dennis Trittin, LifeSmarts, Gig Harbor, WA
- Doug Swanson, Division of Youth & 4-H, National Institute of Food & Agriculture (USDA-NIFA), Washington, DC
- Wendy Wagner, Honey W. Nashman Center for Civic Engagement & Public Service - George Washington University, Washington, DC
- Wade Weber, Kansas State University Research & Extension - Kansas 4-H, Manhattan, KS
- Mary Ballard, Center for Faculty Excellence, Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, LA
- Cheryl Empey, Teacher Educator, Brigham Young University - Idaho, Rexburg, ID
- Brenda Osman, East Central High School, St. Leon, IN
- Robyn Sherman, Rockbridge County High School, Lexington, VA

Assessment Launch and Further Information

The Leadership Essentials assessment and certification are part of a portfolio of pre-professional level assessment and industry-recognized certification products by AAFCS and launched in January, 2019. For further information please contact AAFCS at 703-636-7641 or pre-pac@aafcs.org.

