



AAFCS DSA Honoree Duane Whitbeck, Ph.D.

Alexandria, Va. – July 13, 2021 - Duane Whitbeck, Ph.D. (Professor [Ret.], Pittsburg State University) was honored at the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) Virtual Conference, held June 16-18.

The [DSA](#) was established by the American Home Economics Association (AHEA) Foundation in 1979 as a living tribute to members to recognize superior achievements in family and consumer sciences, outstanding contributions to the family and consumer sciences profession, and sustained association leadership at both state and national levels.

Dr. Whitbeck was nominated by the Kansas Affiliate and has been a member of AAFCS for 21 years. A teacher educator at five universities, for the first 15 years Dr. Whitbeck focused primarily on the early childhood education/child development area. Since 1997, his focus has been on Family & Consumer Sciences and the integration of disciplines to produce the next generation of aspiring professionals. Through his affiliation with AAFCS, he has served in a variety of roles, most notably as a four-year member of the Board of Directors and as President in 2016 – 2017. He continues his commitment to strengthen affiliates and enhance the leadership roles for newer professionals at the state and national level. Dr. Whitbeck serves as the Department Chair of the Family & Consumer Sciences at Pittsburg State University, and retired in May 2021.

"Duane leads by example as an FCS leader, academic of practice, administrator, family nurturer, and friend. . . . I count myself fortunate to have been part of his sphere of influence."

~ Carol Werhan, Clinical Associate Professor, Purdue University,
College of Education and AAFCS member

In his tenure, he has been an inspirational leader with a lasting positive impact on his students and faculty -- one of his guiding principles is teaching students to enhance their personal professional growth and achievement through saying "Yes" to challenging opportunities. His advocacy and support for Family and Consumer Sciences has been impactful to many. AAFCS is honored to celebrate his achievements with the [Distinguished Service Award!](#)

About the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) Based in the Washington, D.C., area, AAFCS was founded in 1909 as the American Home Economics Association and is the only association for family and consumer sciences students and professionals across multiple practice settings and content areas. For 112 years, AAFCS has focused its mission on providing leadership and support for professionals whose work assists individuals, families, and communities in making more informed decisions about their well-being, relationships, and resources to achieve optimal quality of life. Through research, experiential education, and technology, our members help people develop the essential knowledge and skills to lead better lives, be work and career ready, build strong families, and make meaningful contributions to our communities.

About Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Family and consumer sciences or FCS is the field of study focused on the science and the art of living and working well in our complex world. The field represents many areas, including human development, personal and family finance, housing and interior design, food science, nutrition, and wellness, textiles and apparel, and consumer issues.