



## 2021 AAFCS Teacher of the Year Honoree Lori Henry

Alexandria, Va. – July 14, 2021 – Lori Henry, honored at the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) Virtual Conference, held June 16-18.

The **National Teacher of the Year Award** was established in 1974 to recognize exemplary teachers who utilize cutting-edge methods, techniques and activities to provide stimulus and visibility to family and consumer sciences in elementary and secondary education

A Minnesota high school teacher, Lori Henry, was also honored as the 2021 [Teacher of the Year](#). Ms. Henry, a 13-year AAFCS member, has been the family and consumer sciences teacher at Spring Lake Park High School in this Minneapolis suburb for 28 years, where the main focus of the curriculum is culinary arts and early childhood development. She was nominated for her program, "**Making Connections through Leadership and Diversity.**"

*Says Ms. Henry, "My curriculum focus in the past five years has been adapted and developed as I saw an increasing need for creating different diverse and community experiences and opportunities for all students. Differentiation is imperative to a successful classroom with students that are culturally diverse, special needs and/or economically disadvantaged. As a suburb of Minneapolis, our school is continuing to evolve into a school with changing demographics. With this in mind, I began to think of ways that I could be creative in teaching life skills, while at the same time providing in and out of classroom experiences, that are unique and are representative to the school and community."*

Her program successfully incorporates National FCS Standards, and her students Lori is an FCCLA Adviser, and, among other accolades for that work, was named to the National FCCLA 75th Anniversary Leadership Hall of Fame in 2020.

*"If we are going to change the world, we need educators who empower students to engage in community building activities and remain engaged in civic matters as adults. This is what Lori Henry truly fosters with her students at Spring Lake Park High School."*  
~ Principal Matthew Boucher, Spring Lake Park High School

The 2021 AAFCS Teacher of the Year award and recognition was made possible by [Goodheart-Willcox](#).

**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.