

Say Yes to FCS

Background for the *Say Yes to FCS – Filling the FCS Educator Pipeline Initiative*

Building the Foundation for the Initiative through Collaboration

The *Say Yes to FCS – Filling the FCS Educator Pipeline* initiative is the culmination of several years of conversations among Family & Consumer Sciences teacher education colleagues, facilitated through the Family & Consumer Sciences Education Association (FCSEA) and AAFCS Community of Teacher Educators in Higher Education (TEHE).

Since 2008, the TEHE Community (the Community) has worked to foster dialogue surrounding those issues most critical to FCS education and to promote relationships among FCS education organizations. There have been opportunities to explore, identify, and prioritize those issues found to be most significant to FCS teacher educators and the FCS education field, more broadly. The 2014 Community Forum brought together representatives from the National Coalition for FCSE, FCSEA, NATEFACS, *Journal of FCSE*, and the Community. The forum generated momentum leading to this Summit— spurring colleagues to continue their discussions in August 2014 to:

1. Identify materials pertinent to FCS recruitment, marketing, and promotion.
2. Articulate the need to explore broad strategies employed by FCS teacher educators/professionals.
3. Recognize the importance of a unified approach to recruitment, marketing and promotion, framed by FCS standards and shared resources.

Prior to the 2014 ACTE Vision Conference, discussions continued through a working meeting at which participants outlined:

1. FCS education stakeholders
2. Individual and organizational needs to effectively recruit, market, and promote FCS education with various stakeholders
3. The need for organizational commitments to address FCS education recruitment, marketing, and promotion. Participants confirmed the need for a Summit that would provide a space to think more deeply about these interests.

Filling the FCS Educator Pipeline: Summit for Action!

Working collaboratively, under the leadership of AAFCS and a Core Planning Team of individuals committed to aggressive steps addressing the need for FCS educator recruitment, the *Filling the FCS Educator Pipeline: Summit for Action!* was incorporated into the 2015 AAFCS Annual Conference & Expo. Specific priorities for the 100 participants of the day-long Summit were to:

- Identify the needs for qualified FCS educators in formal and non-formal settings.
- Identify the complex environment affecting FCS educator recruitment.
- Showcase current educator recruitment initiatives and strategies at the individual, state and organizational levels as an avenue for sharing best practices and/or lessons learned and determination of how these may be leveraged for national impact.
- Outline plan/steps/measures/commitments to be taken by represented stakeholders (individually/collaboratively) to address the need for qualified FCS educator professionals.
- Determine timeline for fulfilling these commitments.

Outcomes of the Summit

The Summit collaboratively informed and engaged participants to take aggressive action involving individuals, groups, states, and other relevant networks to address the shortage of family and consumer sciences educators. *"Say Yes to FCS – Filling the FCS Educator Pipeline"* is the resulting initiative approved by the AAFCS Board of Directors for coordination and support of focused and sustained efforts for family and consumer sciences educator recruitment. See www.aafcs.org/FCSEdPipeline.asp for campaign details and resources.