



## **AAFCS Resolution: FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES DAY**

**Approved October 2014**

**Whereas**, the profession of Family and Consumer Sciences had its beginning as home economics in 1899 when Ellen Swallow Richards, the first female graduate and faculty member of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, blazed a path using scientific knowledge to address the plight of families with regards to water quality, food safety and safety of home environments; and

**Whereas**, building on its strong foundation, Family and Consumer Sciences continues to use the family as its central focus, thereby expanding its content base to meet the ever evolving needs of that entity; and

**Whereas**, Family and Consumer Sciences has a long and colorful history of utilizing its unique content areas of food and nutrition, human and child development, personal and family finance, family relations, housing and interior design, textiles and apparel, and consumer issues to equip and empower individuals and families to manage the challenges of living and working in a diverse global society; and

**Whereas**, Family and Consumer Sciences professionals promote families eating and preparing meals together as a way to build strong families and improve nutrition; and

**Whereas**, Family and Consumer Sciences professionals work in careers as diverse as secondary and higher education, Extension outreach, family and child agencies, consumer protection, retail/business and as entrepreneurs; and

**Whereas**, the conditions impacting individuals and families today are at an all-time high when it comes to obesity, spousal and child abuse, inability to manage financial affairs and more, point to a heightened role for Family and Consumer Sciences; and

**Whereas**, policy makers and the public, in general need an awareness and understanding of the relevance of Family and Consumer Sciences in addressing many of the problems that are currently holding families hostage; therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences, including state affiliates, related Family and Consumer Sciences organizations, families, communities and public officials support setting aside December 3<sup>rd</sup> as Family & Consumer Sciences Day, to be celebrated annually in memory of a "visionary leader," Ellen Swallow Richards; and, be it further

**Resolved**, that the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences, including state affiliates, related Family and Consumer Sciences organizations, families, communities and public officials support and honor Family and Consumer Sciences professionals.

## **Rationale**

Founded as home economics, the field of Family and Consumer Sciences originated from the area of domestic science and gradually evolved in an effort to improve living conditions that arose during the Industrial Revolution. The practice of Family and Consumer Sciences initially empowered women with career options during a point in history when women struggled to receive education and training. The times have vastly changed, but the focus of the profession to equip families with the tools needed for effective decision-making continues and is very relevant in today's world.

## **Impact**

- Celebrate the history of Family and Consumer Sciences
- Influence public awareness about the practical application of Family and Consumer Sciences and its impact on students, families and communities
- Increase visibility for the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences, affiliates and communities

## **Implementation**

To celebrate Family & Consumer Sciences Day, utilize resources and ideas provided at [www.aafcs.org/FCSday](http://www.aafcs.org/FCSday).

