



ANNUAL CONFERENCE

JUNE 18 - 21

Program Schedule



Welcome to Louisville and the AAFCS Annual Conference!

It is a pleasure to welcome you to our 2026 Annual Conference and to gather as a professional community grounded in purpose, connection, and impact. This conference reflects the heart of Family and Consumer Sciences, work that is deeply rooted and forward looking.



As I conclude my year as AAFCS President, I am filled with gratitude for the leadership and dedication across our Association. Throughout the year, we remained anchored to our foundation, strengthened our connections, reaffirmed our relevance, and led with inclusive purpose. You will see those priorities reflected in the sessions, conversations, and collaborations ahead.

Family and consumer sciences professionals continue to translate knowledge into action while addressing meaningful challenges facing individuals, families, and communities. This conference offers space to learn, reconnect, and imagine what is possible together.

Thank you for being part of this shared work. I hope your time in Louisville inspires reflection and renewed resolve.

Cara Winston Simmons, PhD, CFCS
President, Board of Directors

Please note: This schedule may not include all events or reflect the most up to date information. Please refer to the mobile app for complete maps, session details and more.



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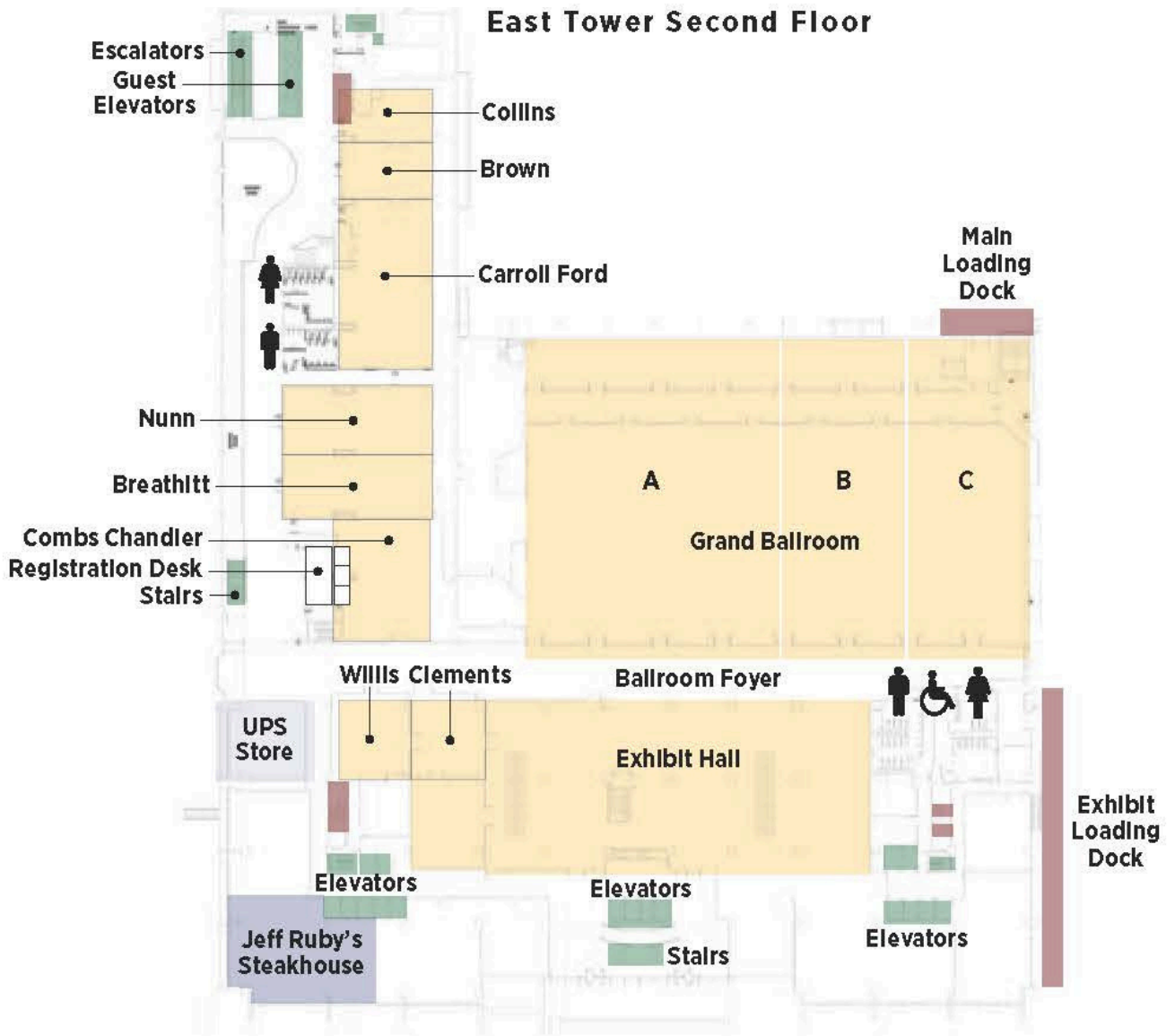
25 Breakout Sessions 4:00-4:45 PM

26 Special Thanks

The

GALT HOUSE®

SITE MAP



General Hotel Information:

Standard Check in: 11 AM

Standard Check out: 3 PM

Pool Hours: 9 AM-9 PM. The pool is located on the 3rd Floor of the West Tower

Gym Hours: Open 24 hours. The gym is located on the 18th Floor of the East Tower; room key required for access

Wi-Fi: Free, please contact the front desk with questions

Airport Transportation/Shuttle Service: Not available

Laundry Services: Available for a fee

The Galt House Hotel is an accessible facility with ADA-compliant rooms available upon request. Transferable benches, roll-in showers, and TDD kits are also available.

Pre-Conference: Wed., June 17

WEDNESDAY

Time	Location	Session Name	Presenter
9:00 - 9:45 AM	Willis	Human-Centered Design Briefs in an AI World: Co-Creating Purposeful Solutions in FCS	Jay Deagon, CQUniversity, Rockhampton, Queensland, Australia
10:00-10:45 AM	Willis	Exploring AI in Consumer Products, What to Look For and How They Work	Manny Dekermenjian, PhD, PE, CFEI, Product Safety Manager - Google Nest
1:30-2:15 PM	Willis	Automating Risks	Ben Winters, Consumer Federation of America
3:30-4:15 PM	Willis	Human-Centered AI Through a Family & Consumer Sciences Lens Ethics, Innovation, and FCS Leadership in the Age of Artificial Intelligence Session Description	Melanie Schmitt, CFCS, Assistant Professor of Practice, Texas Tech University

Pre-Conference: Thurs., June 18

CREDENTIALING OPPORTUNITIES

THURSDAY

Time	Location	Session Name	Presenter
8:00 AM-12:00 PM	Collins	Professional Credentialing Exams	Sign up while supplies last!
9:00 AM-3:30 PM	Willis	Microcredential: The Principled AI Professional	Heather Carter, Pittsburg State University, Joyce B. Miles

WELCOME!




Time	Location	Event
3:45-4:45 PM	Clements	Affiliate President's Unit Meeting
6:00-7:30 PM	Grand Ballroom A	AAFCS Opening Ceremonies
8:00-10:00 PM	Excursion	Mary M. Miller Boat Tour



= Food & beverage served

Friday, June 19: Meetings & Events

FRIDAY

Time	Location	Session Name
7:30-8:30 AM	Grand Ballroom B/C	 Morning Refresher
8:00-8:45 AM	Clements	Meeting of the Colleges, Universities, & Research Community
8:00-8:45 AM	Willis	Annual Board of Trustees Meeting, International Home Economics Services, Inc
8:00-8:45 AM	Carroll Ford	First Time Attendee Session
9:00-10:00 AM	Grand Ballroom A	2026 Annual Conference Keynote with Susan Weinstock
11:45 AM-1:45 PM	Grand Ballroom B/C	 Salute to Excellence Awards Celebration
6:00-8:00 PM	Grand Hall	 Fun in the Expo Hall

Early Learning Session: 8:00 AM

Location	Session Name	Presenter
Nunn	Highlighting the Value and Transitional Impact of the FCS Profession	Mia Russell, Monica Lieblong

Don't miss a single conference update!

Download the Event Mobi conference app for the most up-to-date event information, change notifications, surveys and more!



Special Events to Enhance Your Conference Experience

Please note: These events require pre-registration. Refer to contacts listed for additional information

Event Title: IFHE-US Louisville Slugger Museum Tour

Date: Thursday, June 18
 Time: 12:00 - 2:30 PM | Ticket Price: \$25
 Contact: Luann Boyer, Mia Russell

Event Title: 46th Annual NCBDFCS Banquet

Theme: Juneteenth Jubilee: Freedom, Fascinators, & Black Excellence in Family and Consumer Sciences
 Date: Saturday, June 20, 2026
 Time: 7:00 PM | Ticket Price: \$70
 Contact: Samii Kennedy Benson

Event Title: Leadership Academy Reunion

(Invitation Only)
 Date: Sunday, June 21, 2026
 Time: 12:00 PM
 Contact: Janet Holden

Breakout Sessions: 10-10:45 AM

Location	Session Name	Presenter
Willis	Plant-Powered, Planet-Friendly Protein for Your Plate	Diane Mora
Brown	Storytime for Stronger Futures: Building Emergent Readers with Tonies®	Kyle Roberson
Breathitt	Lead with ? Yes, And?: Improvisational Tools for Agile FCS Leadership	Mia Russell
Clements	Credit Card Debt in the United States ? Trends, Causes, and Implications for Individuals and Families	Karen Alexander, Eugene Adu Henaku
Nunn	How Kentucky FCS Educators Empower and Connect Through the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences	Anastacia Alvarez, Emily Pike Mary Kerr, Maura Hartman Brooklyn Pierce, Eliza Spinks
Carroll Ford	Old Jeans to New Dreams: Denim's Role in Sustainability	Larissa Otterstrom, Natalie Hancock, Amber Williams
Combs Chandler	Oral Research Presentations - Part 1	Robert Nielsen, Troy Anderson, Virginia Vincenti

Breakout Sessions: 11-11:45 AM

Location	Session Name	Presenter
Carroll Ford	Empowering Maryland Communities Through UME FCS Wellness Programs for Older Adults	Lynn Matava, Carrie Sorenson, Jesse Ketterman, Jr., Sung-Jin Lee
Brown	Strengthening Communities Through FCS: Promoting Local Resources for Resilience and Sustainability	Ashley Nelson
Willis	QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) A Suicide Prevention Program*	Julie Patterson
Clements	Utilizing AI-Generated Recipes in a College Food Pantry in Central Arkansas	Rebekah Luong, Kathryn Carroll
Nunn	Positive Employability: Building Ten Essential Soft Skills for Career Success	Melinda McCulley, Nichole Huff, Kelly May
Breathitt	Advocacy in Action: A Traveling FCS Book Display Project	Janet Holden
Combs Chandler	Beyond the Textbook: Practical and Easy-to-Implement Activities for FCS Industry Career Exploration	Keely Post, Jon Losen, Landon Calderwood

**Please note that this session concludes at 12:00 pm*

 **Join us in the Grand Ballroom from 11:45 - 1:45 for the Salute to Excellence Awards Celebration!**

Breakout Sessions: 2-2:45 PM

Location	Session Name	Presenter
Combs Chandler	Your Data Story: Low-Tech Strategies for Making Data Meaningful in Research, Teaching, and Practice	Karleah Harris, Lena Gan
Carroll Ford	Privacy and Security in the Age of AI: Practical Strategies for FCS Educators and Professionals	Heather Carter, Richard Carter
Combs Chandler	Family and Consumer Sciences Research Journal Best Papers 2025	Mari Borr
Breathitt	Safe and Sound: Proactive, preventative, and hands-on approaches aimed at empowering and protecting rural youth	Susan Turner, Jana Davidson
Nunn	Reasoning in Action: Engaging Learners in Critical and Creative Thinking Across FCS Classrooms	Nicole Wanago
Community & Committee Meetings		
Clements	Meeting of the Past Presidents Unit	
Willis	Council of Communities Meeting	

Breakout Sessions: 3-3:45 PM

Location	Session Name	Presenter
Breathitt	Promoting FCS As a Force for Preventing & Addressing Societal Problems Societal Injustices [Also the Advocacy, Leadership, & Collaboration track]	Virginia Vincenti
Carroll Ford	The Future is MAGICAL: Bringing AI to Life in the FCS Classroom	Tisha Richmond
Willis	The Power of Nooch – Flavor, Function, and Fun with Nutritional Yeast	Diane Mora
Nunn	What's Trending in International Culinary Tourism	Lisa Brooks
Brown	Healing Through Connection, Culture, and Creativity: Integrating African-Centered Practices into Wellness and Communal Spaces	Meilana Charles
Community & Committee Meetings		
Clements	“Harvesting Healthier Futures: Community Gardening as Culinary Medicine” with Presenters Marilyn Bailey and Kimberly Haynie	

Breakout Sessions: 4:00-4:45 PM

Location	Session Name	Presenter
Combs Chandler	Our Leaders, Who Were They? Part 2: Lesser-known home economics leaders from past, focusing on underrepresented populations	Lorna Saboe-Wounded Head, LynDee Lombardo, Meilana Charles, Jacqueline Holland, Carole Makela, Sue Byrd
Community, Committee & Partner Meetings		
Carroll Ford	Why Knot Be a Leader: Weaving Your Leadership Skills	
Nunn	Meeting of the AAFCS Board of Directors (concludes at 6 pm)	

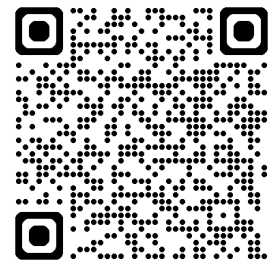


Join us in the Grand Hall from 6:00 - 8:00 for Fun in the Expo Hall!





Having fun, y'all?

Thank you to the Kentucky
ACLAC for developing this
helpful guide to all things
Louisville!



Sat., June 20: Meetings & Events

SATURDAY

Time	Location	Session Name
7:30-8:30 AM	Grand Ballroom B/C	 Morning Refresher
8:00-8:45 AM	Willis	Joint Meeting of the Communities of Non-Traditional Careers, Business and Entrepreneurship, and Lifelong Professionals
8:00-8:45 AM	Clements	Community of Extension Business Meeting
8:00-8:45 AM	Nunn	Lead FCS Education Member Meeting
8:00-8:45 AM	Breathitt	NCBDFCS Business Meeting
9:00-9:45 AM	Grand Ballroom A	Morning General Session - Research Panel
9:00 AM-5:00 PM	Grand Ballroom B/C	AAFCS Showcase Hall Open
11:00 AM-6:00 PM	Grand Hall	Exhibit Hall Open
4:00-5:00 PM	Grand Ballroom A	Afternoon General Session
5:00-6:00 PM	Grand Hall	 Afternoon Networking Coffee Break in the Exhibit Hall

Breakout Sessions: 10-10:45 AM

Location	Session Name	Presenter
Combs Chandler	Sewn into History - Interdisciplinary Learning through the AIDS Quilt with FCS and the Humanities	Rebekah Luong
Willis	Beyond the Kitchen? Teaching Food Recovery, Advocacy, and Real-World Citizenship	Diane Mora
Nunn	Amplifying FCS Impact Through Podcasts	Quadarius Whitson, Lida Rahimi Araghi, Nina Roofe
Carroll Ford	AI and Meal Planning: Who is Liable when Technology invades Nutrition. An Overview of the Ethical and Legal Implications for Families and FCSE Professionals	Blair Pott
Brown	A Case Study: A Guide for Retention, Growth and Belonging for FCS	Bernard Green
Clements	Reigniting Purpose through the Updated FCS Body of Knowledge: A Framework for Teaching, Leadership, and Advocacy	Douglas Youngblood, Amber Williams, Blake Mudd
Partner Meeting		
Breathlitt	FCS Baking Resources Bridging Home to Careers	

Breakout Sessions: 11-11:45 AM

Location	Session Name	Presenter
Breathitt	Creating Connections: How FCS Professionals Can Leverage the Registered Apprenticeship System to Anchor our Discipline to the Workforce	Taylor Spangler
Clements	Strengthening Our Practical Intellectual Community? It Takes a Village? Promoting FCS Visibility	Jennifer Becnel, Janine Duncan, Mari Borr
Carroll Ford	Advanced Textile Manufacturing: Expanding the Understanding of the Apparel and Textiles Industry	Robert Finnegan, Gayla Randel
Nunn	Finding the FCS Facts in Fiction: Connecting Themes from Novels to FCS Through a Book Club	Alisha Barton, Misty Harmon, Lisa Barlage
Brown	Building Money Habits in K-1 through Extension Financial Program	Olivia Leblanc, Jennifer Hedges, Mengya Wang
Combs Chandler	Successful Models of Leadership and Collaboration to Recruit, Prepare, and Support FCS Educators-Regional Action Teams	Lori Myers, Jan Bowers, Karen Bergh
Willis	Communicating with Impact: Social Media Strategy and Confident Media Interview Skills	Aaron Lavallee

Breakout Sessions: 2-2:45 PM

Location	Session Name	Presenter
Clements	The Science of Self Care: Practical Applications for FCS Educators	Amber Williams, Lacey Boschetto
Willis	Reflections from the 2025 Teacher of the Year and Tips and Tricks for Applying	Mercena Ross, Mia Battistone
Brown	Healthy Choices for Your Recovering Body: A Community Nutrition Education Curriculum for Limited Resource Adults in Substance Use Recovery	Sara Jenkins
Breathitt	Empowering FCS Educators: Using Research to Shape Future Professional Development	Melissa Wood
Nunn	A Comprehensive Approach to Preparing Students for the Future Workforce	Rholine Rose
Carroll Ford	Teaching the Future of Food: A Review of AI Integration in Fast Food Chains	Samantha Martin
Combs Chandler	Baking Up Success: Developing Study Resources and Credentialing Tools for the New Baking Science Exam	Melanie Schmitt, Sharon Davis, Lori Myers

 **Join us in the Grand Hall for Fast Talks from 2-5 PM (See schedule, page 17) and Afternoon Networking from 5-6 PM!**

Fast Talks (Located in the Grand Hall)

Time	Session Name	Presenter
1:00-1:15 PM	Whole Grain Rich Baking: A Home Baking Association Presentation	Sharon Davis
1:20-1:30 PM	National Carbon Monoxide Awareness	Charon McNabb
1:40-1:55 PM	New Mexico Advocacy Work in 2025, A Case Study	Dianne Kemp
2:00-2:15 PM	"Green Bean Casserole for Good"- A Collaborative Campaign Between Phi Upsilon Omicron and Celebrity Chef Chadwick Boyd to Fund Trailblazing Research in Family and Consumer Sciences	Melissa Martin
2:20-2:35 PM	K-12 Personal Finance Graduation Requirements and the Role of FCS Professionals	Taylor Stanek
2:40-2:55 PM	Trash-to-Treasure Teaching: Upcycled Projects in Housing & Interior Design	Sadie Hooker
3:00-3:15 PM	Updates from Active Parenting Publishers	Eryn Hopkins
3:20-3:35 PM	When Context Shapes Performance: Narrative Task Effects in African American English-Speaking Students	Bryan Murray
3:40-3:55 PM	What's In Your Bag	Lance Cheramie, Laurie Apple, Shari Moxley, Treisha Peterson, Leigh Southward

Breakout Sessions: 3-3:45 PM

Location	Session Name	Presenter
Breathitt	Let's CHAT: Mapping Interdisciplinary Competencies in FCS for Advocacy with a Collaborative Theoretical Approach and Developmental Work Research	Virginia Parker, Melynda Folley
Clements	Perceived Food Insecurity Beyond Income: A Behavioral Model Linking Food Literacy and Waste Attitudes	Jacinta Hinson
Carroll Ford	AI-Driven Food Industry: Case Studies, Challenges, and Future Trends	Karen Alexander, Irina Mikheeva
Brown	Healthy Eating on \$6/Day: Rethinking Food Affordability and Purchasing Decisions	Carol Smathers
Nunn	Libraries: Supporting and Empowering FCS Professionals	Gregg McCullough
Combs Chandler	Oral Research Presentations - Part 2	Cynthia Miller, Karen Byrd, Aaron Lavallee
Community & Committee Meetings		
Willis	Driving Academic Excellence in Higher Education: Programs & Initiatives for Impact" Presented by Assembly of Higher Education and Council for Accreditation	

Community, Committee, and Partner Meetings: 5:30-6:15 PM

Location	Session Name	Presenter
Clements	Public Policy Matters: Tools to Help	
Carroll Ford	FCSEA: Regional Action Team Grant Working Session	
Willis	History and Archives Community Meeting/OCR Scanning for Digital Accessibility Educational Session	
Breathitt	Alliance for FCS Meeting	
Nunn	Student Unit Meeting	

Sun., June 21: Meetings & Events

SUNDAY

Time	Location	Session Name
7:30-8:30 AM	Grand Ballroom B/C	 Morning Refresher
8:00-8:45 AM	Clements	Community of Taking it to the Streets Community Networking Session
8:00-8:45 AM	Breathitt	IFHE-US Members Meeting
8:00-8:45 AM	Combs Chandler	Carbon Monoxide Awareness
9:00-9:45 AM	Grand Ballroom A	Morning General Session Grantmaking & Awards
9:00-12:00 PM	Grand Ballroom B/C	AAFCS Showcase Hall Open (ATD, Curriculum, and Oral/Poster Research)
1:30-2:30 PM	Grand Ballroom A	Afternoon General Session
5:30-6:30 PM	Grand Ballroom Foyer	 Closing Reception
7:00-9:00 PM	Grand Ballroom A	 Closing Dinner

Breakout Sessions: 10-10:45 AM

Location	Session Name	Presenter
Combs Chandler	Oral Research Presentations - Part 3	Kathleen Heiden, Geetika Jaiswal, Leigh Southward
Community & Committee Meetings		
Brown	Diversity Matters: Kentucky African American and Native American Heritage Commission Hosted by the Community for Diversity and Inclusion	
Willis	Building Leadership Capacity Community Business Meeting	

Join us in the Grand Hall for Fast Talks from 10 AM to 1 PM (See schedule, page 22)

Fast Talks (Located in the Grand Hall)

Time	Session Name	Presenter
10:00-10:15 AM	What's New in Hands-On Human Development	Denise DuBois
10:20-10:35 AM	The Epic History of Macaroni and Cheese	Beverly Card
10:40-10:55 AM	Cyber Connection with Caution and Curiosity: Empowering the next generation of digital citizens to explore while prioritizing their digital security and online safety	Riece Hamilton
11:00-11:15 AM	The Dress Up Box: Using Dress as a Tool to Communicate Elements and Principles of Design	Hannah Upole
11:20-11:35 AM	Mentoring Connections for Future Educators, New Teachers, and Colleagues	Michelle Tweardy
11:40-11:55 AM	Sustain the Love: Meeting our Unit mission through student-led service-learning activities	Amy Yates, CPFFE
12:00-12:15 PM	Projector Sewing: Utilizing Technology for Cutting Out Sewing Projects	Melissa Clark
12:20-12:35 PM	Just a Game? Youth Sports Betting and the role of FCS	Terra Aquia
12:40-12:55 PM	Abraham Maslow and the Blackfoot Nation: A Montana Initiative	Gayla Randel

Breakout Sessions: 11-11:45 AM

Location	Session Name	Presenter
Willis	Fifty-Two Weeks of FCS: Strengthening Member Awareness and Engagement Through Strategic Social Media Outreach	Karleah Harris, Jordan Larsen, Sydney Cox
Nunn	Guiding Difference Makers: Leadership Principles for People-Focused Organizations	Matthew Thornton
Brown	Super Seniors Staying Strong: Creating a Community Nutrition Education Program for Older Adults	Darci Bell, Allison Coutinho
Carroll Ford	One Design. One Voice.: Unifying Family and Consumer Sciences through Visual Marketing	Michelle Clouse
Breathitt	On the Front Lines: Advancing FCS Support for Military-Connected Families	Kayla Reed Fitzke, Nichole Huff, Kristen Jowers
Combs Chandler	Oral Research Presentations - Part 4	Nicole Wanago, Micheal Rowley, Barbara Stewart

Breakout Sessions: 3-3:45 PM

Location	Session Name	Presenter
Breathitt	From Classroom to Career: Co-Designing Dual Enrollment to Grow the Next Generation of FCS Professionals	Nicole Wanago
Clements	Rooted, Rising, and Resilient: The AgriFCS Academy in Year 3	Ethel Jones, LaToya Johnson
Brown	Dual-Language Education in Early Childhood Education	Francisco Castaneda
Community & Committee Meetings		
Combs Chandler	Leadership Council Meeting	

Breakout Sessions: 4-4:45 PM

Location	Session Name	Presenter
Breathitt	Organize This! Legal and Financial Must-Haves	Lorna Saboe-Wounded Head
Community & Committee Meetings		
Carroll Ford	Meeting of the Community of Elementary, Secondary and Adult Education	

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to the Kentucky Annual Conference Local Advisory Committee for your partnership in making this year's conference a success!

Karen Denniston
Angela Gott
Kayla Howard
Sally Mineer
Emily Pike
Laura Spieglehalter

Teacher of the Year Sponsor:

