

IMPACTS

IN FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES



FROM HUDDLE TO IMPACT: ADVANCING KENTUCKY FCS

To address declining retention of FCS Education majors and strengthen Kentucky's future FCS teaching workforce, the KY FCS Huddle was created. The goal of the KY FCS Huddle is to increase retention of college students majoring in Family and Consumer Sciences Education by fostering connection, mentorship, professional identity, and a strong sense of belonging within the FCS community.

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The KY FCS Huddle supports college FCS Education students with personal and professional development, networking, advocacy, and leadership skills. These contribute to helping students feel supported, engaged, and committed to persisting in FCS Education programs.

The KY FCS Huddle is hosted each fall (September or October) at the FFA Leadership Center where the annual KY FCCLA Leadership Camp is hosted. FCS Education students have opportunity to experience camp prior to bringing students here as teachers/FCCLA Advisers. Program content is a collaborative effort between the Kentucky Department of Education FCS Program Consultant and the three university teacher educators. An attempt is made to rotate topics annually to maintain interest for repeat participants.

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The KY FCS Huddle is in its 6th year and has worked with over 50 college students across the state of Kentucky. Post program surveys have found participants stating they gained confidence, a sense of belonging, and commitment to FCS. Program retention is improving across the three programs offered in Kentucky.

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The KY FCS Huddle emerged from an Affiliate project developed as part of the AAFCS Leadership Academy. Championing the Huddle has increased student retention.