



# Colorado/Wyoming Affiliate News

Summer 2024

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*Colorado and Wyoming are Affiliates of the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences  
Dedicated to improving quality of life for individuals and families since 1908*

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## ***CAFCS President's Message***

*Jeanine Pope*  
CAFCS AAFCS President



The CAFCS/WAFCS Spring Conference allowed for networking, insights and information into what is happening at the national level at AAFCS as well as a tour of the *The SPUR* where we met. The Spur is the Colorado State University Outreach Campus.

***Results of a Membership Survey*** completed earlier in the Spring were reviewed. The CAFCS/WAFCS board members will use the survey feedback as they consider options for future conferences as well as other events and activities.

Five FCS professionals joined us in a ***Panel Discussion of Challenges Facing Family and Consumer Sciences*** by looking at the value of our profession and the ways each has used advocacy as a way to promote FCS. Learn more about the panel later in this newsletter.

The ***Critical Science Academy*** was introduced to attendees by Virginia Vincenti, Professor Emeritus from University of Wyoming. She facilitated an interactive session for members to learn about the role Critical Sciences plays in Family Consumer Sciences. You'll learn more in Ginny's article.

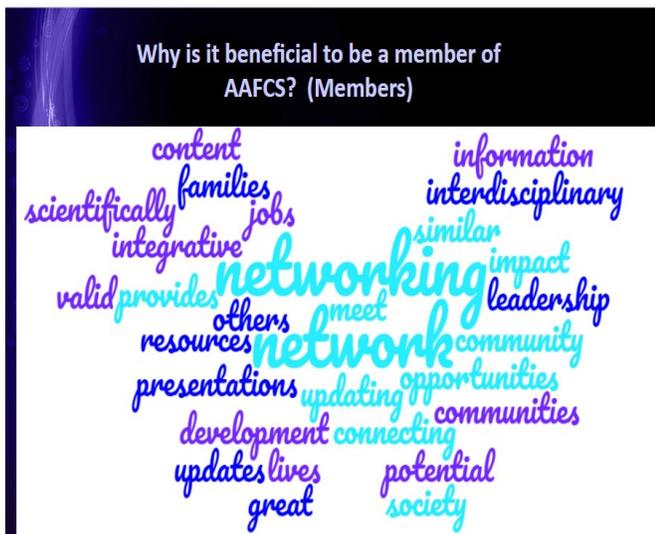
**AAFCS National President Deb Andres** joined the meeting virtually in the afternoon. She provided updates on initiatives being facilitated by the association, including the Advocacy Pilot Program and their grants which are available to affiliates.

Colorado and Wyoming are participating in the **AAFCS Advocacy Pilot Program** with the purpose of advancing and bringing visibility to professional opportunities for those with an FCS degree. We are currently formulating options for promoting the value of Family and Consumer Sciences to policy-makers in Colorado and Wyoming.

AAFCS affiliates were able to submit proposals to receive \$500 grants biannually to plan and support advocacy events. They have also been provided advocacy resources, training and strategizing sessions to help with this program. Watch for more as Colorado and Wyoming work toward their goals for **FCS Advocacy**.

Please share any of your thoughts and ideas regarding Family and Consumer Sciences with me. Email me at [jeaninepope4@gmail.com](mailto:jeaninepope4@gmail.com).

*Jeanine*



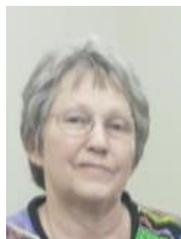
## ***WAFCS President Message***

*Patty Johnson*  
*Wyoming AFCS President*

### **Ponderings from Wyoming**

Spring brings many of the nicer changes in the year.

The CO/WY Affiliate annual meeting at the The SPUR with the tours of the different buildings was impressive. This is a great way to expose younger students to



career options for the future. The SPUR is a wonderful place for families to spend a day beside school field trips.

But it was bittersweet to see the site of the Denver Stock Show of my youth changing. As a winner of a 4-H county fair home economics award I was sent in wool suits, heels, gloves and dress hats in cold January to tour the stockyards. Boy have dress codes changed in sixty years.

The Wyoming Affiliate welcomes Bobbi Doering to our affiliate and look forward to her ideas and enthusiasm to help us move our affiliate forward. She is new to FCS Education but has jumped in full force.

Virginia Vincenti continues working with FACS In Wyoming. She joined with Dr. Michelle Aldrich, Wyoming CTE Director, and her staff to create the FACS Huddle, a monthly hour long zoom meeting on the fourth Tuesday of the month. It showcases teachers in their rooms sharing current projects. It's great to see the dedication to our profession still there. Virginia is off to AAFCS to represent our state and then on to IFHE Congress.

Change reminds us that life keeps on going. Our granddaughter graduated from Gallatin County High School in Bozeman last weekend. The next grandchild graduated from preschool in Alaska a week earlier. Big stepping stones for both of them. They had the same level of excitement to be moving forward in life.

Thanks to the Colorado Affiliate for including Wyoming AFCS and hosting the Bi-State Conference.

***Patty***

## ***Challenges Facing Family and Consumer Sciences***

Five FCS professionals joined us at the Annual Conference in a discussion about the value of our profession and ways each has used advocacy in promoting FCS.

One idea put forth was Family and Consumer Sciences should refer back to the original purpose of improving the quality of life for individuals and families. It was stated many times we sometimes get too segmented into the different areas of our profession and separate ourselves too far from the original ideas which Home Economics and FCS were built upon.

We discussed the different strategies for working with stakeholders/policymakers to prepare them to advocate for Family and Consumer Sciences. It was suggested we invite people to visit our classrooms, day care centers, or other work settings to see first-hand the education and life-long skills we provide.

Attendees generated their own lists of advocacy ideas such as using social media and the use of proper hashtags, attending events at the State Capitol, and in the community to have conversations about understanding the broad areas which FCS encompasses and the impact it has on individuals

Thanks to these panel members:

Abby Emrick, current FCS Student Teacher and Substitute FCS Teacher

Bobbi Doering, FCS Teacher, Torrington, Wyoming High School

Michelle Sharp, Early Childhood Council (Logan, Phillips, Sedgwick counties)

Kim Baldwin, Colorado FCS Teacher, Ponderosa High School

Sharon Ruyle, Retired Human Service Administrator and former FCS Teacher

## ***Critical Science: How to Apply to Professional Practice***

*Virginia Vincente*

*Emeritus Professor, University of Wyoming*

This interactive session involved a part of a journal, not a quick change from the more common transfer-of-knowledge approach to FCS professional practice. Why start this journey (change our practice) if we like the track we are on?

As a profession, we do not have the impact which we could in the larger society or in the lives of our constituents, whomever they are. We need to know ourselves, join together on the same journey, and use our knowledge and power to address through education and social change what is contributing to some of society's big problems.

We need to tell our story, share our successes, prepare our constituents for all their roles in life: individuals, family and community members, workers, and citizens in a democracy.

What is critical science? It was introduced in our field in 1978 by Marjorie Brown and Bea Paolucci, who were commissioned by AHEA, (now AAFCS), to redefine our field. *Critical Science* is the process of choosing the best course of action taken by individuals and groups by collaboratively examining and critiquing present social structures for the purpose of their own emancipation from our biases and unfounded assumptions (Brown & Paolucci, 1979, p. 23). The main goal of this approach is improvement of families for the benefit of all family members, communities, and society.

It encourages questioning of taken-for-granted beliefs, ideas, and situations using dialogue/conversation among all affected by a situation/problem, questioning

assumptions, and seeks diverse and opposing perspectives and information. For such conversations to be successful, it is critical to show respect for each person as agents in their lives, not objects used by others.

Such problem-solving conversations must recognize that actions we take often have consequences for me/you/us in the short and long term. Critical thinking and ethical reasoning are essential to determine what you should do in a particular situation.

Moral/ethical principles and facts from multiple disciplines and specializations within FCS (contextual or situational factors or circumstances surrounding a situation) are identified and applied to determine the most justifiable action to take.

I encourage you to continue on the journey by enrolling in the **Critical Science Academy**. More information can be found on the AAFCS.org website under Events. I am also willing to have conversations with anyone and provide additional materials. Contact [vincenti@uwyo.edu](mailto:vincenti@uwyo.edu).

## ***First Time Attendee Shares Conference Experience***

*Bobbi Doering*

*FCS Teacher, Torrington, Wyoming*

Let's dive into the CAFCS conference, shall we? It's not just any gathering – it's like a cozy get-together with your favorite people, except those individuals happen to be some of the most engaging and inspiring people you'll ever mingle with!

That's what it feels like. And let me tell you, it's not just about being a passive observer, it's about being an active participant in all the discussions about important topics in Family

and Consumer Sciences, which included learning more about Critical Science in FCS. Whether it's chatting with speakers after their sessions or sharing your own insights during a workshop, there's no shortage of opportunities to engage and connect.

As a first-time attendee, I was pleasantly surprised by the personalized experience the CO/WY Annual Conference offered. With a smaller group, I had the chance to tailor my conference experience to fit my interests and needs. Whether it was diving deep into a specific topic or engaging in one-on-one conversations with fellow attendees, I found that there was something for everyone. It's like having your own personalized conference agenda, where you can focus on what matters most to you and make the most out of your time at the conference.

Touring Colorado State University's The SPUR campus is an immersive journey into the heart of interdisciplinary collaboration, where sustainability, animal and human health, food systems, and various fields converge to address pressing global challenges. The tour showcased how different disciplines seamlessly intertwine to tackle complex issues. Visitors witness scientists, engineers, social scientists, and health professionals working side by side, pooling their expertise to drive innovation forward.

One major highlight of the tour is the emphasis on sustainability. At The SPUR, sustainability isn't just a buzzword; it's a way of life. Visitors explore state-of-the-art facilities dedicated to sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, and environmental conservation. They see firsthand how researchers are developing eco-friendly farming practices, harnessing solar and wind energy, and preserving natural habitats for future generations.

Animal and human health are also central themes of the tour. Visitors learn about groundbreaking research in veterinary medicine, human nutrition, and public health. They witness how advancements in animal health directly impact human well-being, and vice versa. Whether it's studying zoonotic diseases, developing new vaccines, or promoting healthy lifestyles, the collaborative efforts between veterinarians, physicians, nutritionists, and other experts are evident at every turn.

Food systems are another key focus of the tour. Visitors explore the entire food production chain, from farm to fork, and beyond. They see how scientists are revolutionizing agriculture to ensure food security while minimizing environmental impact. They learn about innovative food processing techniques, sustainable food packaging, and efforts to combat food waste. The interdisciplinary approach ensures that every aspect of the food system is considered, from production and distribution to consumption and waste management.

But perhaps the most remarkable aspect of the tour is the spirit of interdisciplinary collaboration that permeates every aspect of The SPUR campus life. Visitors witness researchers from diverse backgrounds coming together to tackle shared challenges. They see how ideas flow freely across disciplines, sparking new insights and innovations. Whether it's engineers collaborating with biologists to develop biodegradable materials or sociologists teaming up with public health experts to address food insecurity, the tour demonstrates the power of collaboration in driving meaningful change.

Overall, the tour of Colorado State University's Spur campus is a testament to the transformative potential of interdisciplinary

collaboration. It inspires visitors to imagine a future where sustainability, animal and human health, food systems, and various fields intersect seamlessly to create a better world for all.

Finally, I was reminded by this conference how important the need to emphasize Community Spirit. As educators in Family Consumer Science we have a unique ability to help people feel like they are part of something special as I did at this conference. We also need to continue to share our love for Family Consumer Science and sharing our knowledge with others. Being at this conference I was reminded that I am part of something truly special. It's not just about attending sessions and workshops – it's about forming connections, building relationships, and being part of a community of like-minded individuals who are passionate about the same things we all are.

Most importantly I really think we need to work to come together so we can continue to speak up about all the exciting things happening in teaching Family Consumer Science. Additionally that we are bold, forward-thinking leaders who can look to the past, evaluate our present issues and come together to help solve some of the hard issues and problems people face in today's society.

## ***2024 Colorado Legislative Session***

*Carole Makela*

Students in FACS479 Colloquium Family and Consumer Sciences at CSU select proposed 2024 legislative bills to study and follow through the Colorado Assembly. The students are invited to attend CO/WY Conference and provide an update about the bill status.

The Colorado Assembly introduced 705 bills, 472 in the House and 233 in the Senate. More than 500 were passed (some with amendments). There are varied effective dates. It is the responsibility of citizens to be aware of the bills and the extent to which they impact our day-to-day lives and actions.

Those indicated below as ‘passed’ with no other information were passed in the last few days of the session. Full information can be found on the Colorado Assembly site by searching by bill number, topic/subject.

There were several bills related to taxation, housing, water, health, and education. Most related to the complete state, a few were related to limited areas of the state such as Denver or the Front Range, for example.

Here was the status of the bills at the close of the Colorado Assembly.

### ***Senate Bills***

24-005 Prohibit landscaping practices for water conservation—passed and signed March 15.

24-007 Behavioral health first aid training program--passed.

24-015 Licensed professional counselors in communities—postponed indefinitely.

24-054 Diabetes prevent and obesity treatment Act—passed Senate, but not House.

24-057 Agriculture workforce and suicide prevention—postponed indefinitely.

24-078 Outdoor nature based preschool programs--passed.

24-117 Eating disorder treatment and recovery--passed.

24-122 Empowerment scholarship accounts—postponed indefinitely.

### ***House Bills***

24-1004 Offenders practice in regulated occupation--passed.

24-1028 Overdose prevention centers—passed House, postponed in Senate.

24-1136 Healthier social media use by youth—passed and signed.

24-1208 Autism treatment fund—passed and signed March 6

### ***November 2024 Ballot Initiatives***

The website at the end of this article is a good way to identify and track initiatives which may be on the Colorado ballot in November. It is expected the list will include more than 10 initiatives. A few have already been identified by citizen actions or the CO legislature to be on the ballot. Others are in the petition stage (seeking citizens’ signatures to qualify to be on the ballot) or in other steps of the process.

With a lengthy ballot, citizens need to become familiar with the issues and begin to decide how they might vote. Our homework is to be informed. You may want to quiz those running for state legislative offices or local offices as appropriate for their stance on these issues as well.

Some are an effort to honor ‘states’ rights’ over federal mandates and/or to reassert Colorado’s earlier stances. Yes, a number relate to issues basic to FCS. The website is shared for your exploration and study as the status of the initiatives changes day by day. Copy and paste this in your browser.

<https://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/Initiatives/titleBoard/>

## ***Student Presentations***

CSU students from Carole Makela's class are a usual part of the conference and discussing the legislation they have followed during the semester. Evion Nigh presented his information on Senate Bill 24-005: Prohibit of landscape practices for water conservation.

He has been an engaged student – even during the tough years of COVID restrictions on campus activities. He cited Dawn Mallette, his academic advisor, as being a helpful mentor in guiding him on his chosen degree path. His emphasis has focused on water education.

## ***CSU The SPUR***

*Angela Smith*

Terra, Hydro & Vida, sound like a new Marvel movie but they are the names of three buildings at the new CSU SPUR Campus at the National Western Center. “Developed by the Colorado State University System with \$250 million in funding from the Colorado General Assembly, The SPUR is a free campus that supports public education, research, and community outreach, with a particular emphasis on attracting K-12 students to college and careers in food.” *Tony Frank, chancellor, CSU System.* This year's CO/WY FCS Conference was held at The SPUR on April 20 and we had the opportunity to tour all 3 buildings.

Terra Building, Latin for earth, is where our meeting was held, and we had ample opportunity to explore the many educational labs and research facilities dedicated to food and agriculture. On the roof we saw an expansive greenhouse as research on how urban spaces could be used for plant and food production. There is also a very large teaching and culinary kitchen for community cooking classes, sensory lab, food science and for perfecting new products in nearby food labs.

Agricultural Diagnostic & Analytical Service labs offer a one stop shop for soil, water, and plant analysis. Homeowners to farmers can drop off or mail in samples. Forms and pricing are on the [website](#)

Hydro Building, Greek for water, is anything about water our most precious natural resource. The building has ample meeting space for businesses or organizations looking for a convenient Denver location. Hydro hosts three think tanks which examine policies and practices related to agriculture and the environment. Denver Water is opening a new water quality lab in the Hydro building to conduct more than 200,000 tests each year to

ensure high quality drinking water to Metro Denver. With Colorado being a “headwaters state”, waters from the Continental Divide supplies downstream water to many other states. You can learn more about Colorado's four major watersheds and the impact they have on other parts of the state and other states. Research of wastewater, stormwater, and roof runoff is being conducted by CSU's One Water Solutions Institute with the principle that all water is valuable and when treated properly can be used in other ways again.



Water tap lab-  
roof runoff to  
water plants at  
the Hydro  
building

Vida Building, Spanish for life, is about where people, community and animals connect. Visitors can watch and hear directly from veterinarians while they are performing surgeries on animals or there is a mock kid's exam clinic. There are various exhibits on animal and human health, including a virtual reality lab. Vida also houses the Temple Grandin Equine Center, an initiative that integrates research and education for the betterment of horses and humans. Special needs individuals heal, therapists treat, instructors teach, and students learn, scientists research and horses are studied, cared for, and advanced. The CSU Equine Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Center is at Vida, where the focus is not just on injuries but on full body rehabilitation. The Center is run by veterinarians who specialize in sports medicine and rehabilitation.

With so much to explore and experience at CSU SPUR, a field trip to it fits into all the CTE programs in one way or another. It is also a great experience to understand our planet, our food, our pets and other animals. Field trips are encouraged at The SPUR, are free and bus reimbursements are available.

Go to CSUSPUREDUCTION @COLOSTATE.EDU to get on the list for next year. I am hoping to take my FCCLA students in the 2024-2025 school year and asking for Perkins funding to pay for it.



Animal Surgeries at the Vida Building

## ***AAFCS National Conference June 5 – 10, Minneapolis, MN***

Jeanine Pope, CAFCS President

The AAFCS National Conference was a jam-packed schedule of sessions, Fast Talks, presentations, award dinners, networking time and activities. It was a great experience and I am grateful I had the opportunity to attend!

The AAFCS conference included over 385 attendees and 48 states were represented. The agenda offered a wide variety of topics and numerous sessions.

I tried to focus on workshops that addressed advocacy and the promotion of FCS, attending sessions such as:

Leadership Academy Training as a Catalyst:  
Enhancing Member Engagement in AAFCS

Adding the Economic Value of FCS  
Programs to your Advocacy Strategies

Partnering to Prepare Professionals -  
Oklahoma's Collaborative Efforts

Advocacy Training Session 1

Advocacy Training Session 2

Why Don't You Join Us? Reflections on a  
AAFCS Membership Growth Grant in  
Arkansas

Fun with Silk: Cocoon to Kimono

Free Resources to Recruit, Prepare, and  
Tackling the World Together: Community  
Challenges and Collective Solutions

## **Leadership Council Meeting Highlights**

AAFCS policies and procedures manual has been updated and revised.

A new organizational chart has been formulated.

The Financial Report of the Association was given.

Groups were formed and each brainstormed different areas that the association and Leadership Council can focus on for the coming year.

It was an interesting discussion and I hope more specific action steps will result.

### **Affiliate Presidents Meeting**

Colorado received a certificate which can be presented or given to an AAFCS member, a non-member, or a student to pay for the application fee for the CFCS, CPFFE, or CNWE Certification Exams.

The rest of the President's meeting involved a "Are you Sharing?" session. Mentimeter, a polling app, was used to gather input and ideas about what the affiliates around the country were doing. Discussion about the responses followed each question.

The conference was interactive, full of interesting workshops and sessions and I enjoyed networking with all kinds of different people.

One thing different from the conference last year was the Fast Talks. Last year the Fast Talks involved a specific time frame and participants rotated around to different tables. This year Fast Talks consisted of sessions which were 15 to 30 minutes in length and were located on two stages within the hub.

I liked the different format: however, it was a little difficult to move from a session to a Fast Talk without leaving the session early or arriving late.

Also, this year's registration included attendance for Teacher of the Year luncheon, the Awards Breakfast, and the Closing Celebration. I felt like there were more

sessions, and activities (Bingo Card Challenge), door prize drawings, and events to attend this year.

The 2024 Leadership Summit in September and the AAFCS Annual Conference in June will both be held in Kansas City.

### ***Call to Action: Establishing an FCS Career Cluster.***

If you have not done so already, please go to the website <https://www.aafcs.org/aafcs-advocacy/aafcs-public-policy/action-center> to advocate for Family and Consumer Sciences to have their own Career Cluster within the Advance CTE Career Cluster Framework. The website can be found by going to the AAFCS homepage, Resources, AAFCS Advocacy Website, Advocacy Public Policy and scroll down to Action Center.

Directly under the Action Center, also see the section on "Establishing a FCS Career Cluster." It will provide further rationale as to why it is important to advocate for our part in the CTE framework. Your message can be easily formulated using the template on the website and can be sent to Advance CTE's Executive Director, Associate Director: State Policy, and Board of Directors. Furthermore, your message can be sent to state CTE Administrators and state legislators.

### ***Congratulations!!***

Sharon DeVaney was the winner of the PDU Renewal Certificate. All members who held AAFCS Certification were entered into a drawing which was held during the Annual Conference in April.

## ***MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!***

### **2024**

**Sept 20-23: 2024 Leadership Summit  
Marriott Downtown Hotel  
Kansas City, Missouri**

**October 19: IFHE-US Professional  
Development Webinar  
“Voices from Kenya”**

### **2025**

**March 22: World Home Economics Day  
2025 Theme  
“Tackling Overconsumption”**

**June 25-28: 2025 Annual Conference  
Kansas City, Missouri**

### ***Newsletter Submissions***

This newsletter is your newsletter. Members are encouraged to submit information about programs, conferences, member awards (include website links) as well as information on current FCS topics.

Written submissions should be in a WORD document attached to the email. Photos need to be saved as **jpeg** and attached to the email (don't put into the body of the email).

Email all submissions to CAFCS Executive Director at [luann.boyer@colostate.edu](mailto:luann.boyer@colostate.edu)



### **COLORADO/WYOMING NEWS**

is a newsletter for members of the Colorado and Wyoming Affiliates of American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences.

Photos and articles from and about members are welcome.

Members are asked to keep email addresses updated with CAFCS so newsletters can be emailed. Send any contact updates, including address and email to the Editor listed below.

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