



Colorado/Wyoming Affiliate News

Winter 2025

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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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2025 Colorado/Wyoming AFCS Affiliate Annual Conference

Friday, April 25 & Saturday, April 26

Critical Issues Impacting Us All is the theme for our 2025 Annual Conference to be hosted by the Wyoming Affiliate at the University of Wyoming in Laramie. The full Conference Agenda and Registration has been emailed to all affiliate members, but here is a preview from Virginia Vincenti, Chair of the 2025 Conference Planning Committee.

Presentations will address the Critical Issues of Food Insecurity, Financial Resources, and Housing Availability. Attendees will:

(1) gain an understanding of the interconnection of these critical issues;

(2) identify how to access resources and strategies to address complex issues;

(3) build opportunities and connections to prevent complex issues.

While the Conference officially begins at noon Friday, April 25, there are several optional Pre-Conference opportunities available Friday morning. Check out the Pre- and Post-Opportunities which are included with the Conference Schedule.

This Conference will emphasize the interrelationship of three Critical Issues which have an impact on society, and a variety of resources and strategies for addressing solutions. The Poverty Simulation Friday afternoon will set the stage for the Critical Issues to be presented and discussed Friday and Saturday. The Friday Dinner speaker will introduce the connections between these issues with panel responses along with perspectives from the audience discussion.

Saturday will include 3 topic sessions of time for presentations and discussion on food, finances, and housing followed by sessions on making connections, policy implications, and next steps for the participants to take back to their work settings, schools, and communities.

There will also be Exhibits, Poster Sessions, and Fast Talk Round Tables during the day.

Critical Issues Impacting Us All

includes topics applicable for those in:

- ★ public or private education of all levels
- ★ Extension Educators and Specialists
- ★ business and industry
- ★ non-profit organizations
- ★ professionals in people-centered fields
- ★ government agencies
- ★ school boards and administrators
- ★ legislators and policymakers

Registration

Registration has Options for Two Days (Friday & Saturday); OR One Day Only for Saturday. **Registration has an Early Bird Deadline Option for 1 Day (Saturday) or for 2 Days which MUST BE COMPLETED by March 15.** For later registrations, the deadline is April 11. For Registrations completed after April 11, the only meal included with the registration will be Saturday Lunch.

UW Community Service Project

Conference participants are encouraged to bring gloves, hats, underwear, socks, female sanitary products and/or men or women's incontinence products for a charity project. The University Service, Leadership and Community Engagement (SLCE) office will work with student attendees to organize and distribute items to local charities.

Thanks in advance for contributing to this community service project while attending our Annual Conference in Laramie.

CAFCS President's Message

Jeanine Pope

CAFCS AFCS President



It is a busy time of year for Family & Consumer Sciences! I wanted to update you on what our affiliate has underway.

Virginia (Ginny) Vincenti from Wyoming has been working hard to plan our Annual CAFCS/WAFCS Spring Conference being held April 25th and 26th in Laramie on the University of Wyoming campus.

There are interesting tours within Laramie both before and after the conference. The conference will focus on housing, finance, and food critical issues. The goal is to not only have presentations on the issues, but also sharing of ideas and conversations of how we can better work to solve them in communities. Plan to make your way to Wyoming this spring!

Also, Ginny and I attended the Colorado Association of Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences (CATFACS) conference January 31. We presented a session titled, "Promoting FCS: A Force for Prevention." We shared our work as professionals in helping students and families solve some of our most complex issues through what we teach in the classrooms.

We plan to also present for the Wyoming FCS teachers at the Wyoming Career and Technical Education Association conference later this year.

Finally, Jessica Teal and I attended the Future Teachers' Conference February 7th at the University of Northern Colorado. We shared how to become a FCS teacher and how teaching FCS is relevant, impactful and fun!

Jeanine

WAFCS President Message

Patty Johnson

Wyoming AFCS President

Greetings from cold and windy Wyoming!

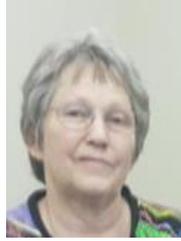
SAVE THE DATES – April 25 and 26 – to meet in Laramie at the University of Wyoming. The CO/WY Conference Planning Committee Chair Virginia Vincenti has developed an exciting schedule for two days full of activities and presentations. Conference headquarters is the Business College on the UW campus. The conference will focus on the interconnections between food, housing, and finance critical issues.

There will be tours available (both on-campus and off-campus) Friday morning and Saturday afternoon, so leave your fancy footwear at home.

There is also the opportunity to participate in a Community Service project while at our conference. Start gathering gloves, hats, underwear and incontinence products for women and men plus sanitary products for women. The UW Office Service, Leadership, and Civic Engagement (SLCE) will identify charity organizations in need and UW students will organize and deliver the donated items in the community.

There will be student exhibits and posters and a few fast talks in the exhibit area. Complete details about the conference will be emailed soon. Early Bird Registration will save some dollars, and is due March 15. Hope to see you in Laramie. Brings your fellow FCS colleagues to this outstanding conference.

In the meantime, stay warm and start planning your garden. Spring will pop up when it's good and ready.



I am trying to live with more gratitude this year. Each day I look for something good in my life. This week my son and I are taking a quick trip to celebrate birthdays of three and five year old grandsons. I am looking to fill my heart with good memories, hugs, and laughter.

Patty

IFHE World Home Economics Day

March 21, 2025 is World Home Economics Day with various activities around the world which address “*Tackling Overconsumption*”. The current way of living and consuming can lead to health and financial problems, climate change, loss of biodiversity and pollution. Home Economics (as Family & Consumer Sciences is known worldwide) helps families and individuals address changes which may enable all to live a sustainable quality of life.

World Home Economics Day IFHE-US Webinar March 22

International Federation of Home Economics-United States affiliate will host a Webinar Saturday, March 22 addressing “*Tackling Overconsumption*”.

Our current way of living and consumption is unsustainable. Overconsumption may lead to health and financial problems, climate change, loss of biodiversity, and pollution.

Key Areas for Change may be:

- Food: Shifting to a more plant-based diet can reduce emissions and improve health.
- Housing: Consider how much space we need, use sustainable energy, and adopt eco-friendly technologies.
- Travel: Support and use more sustainable transportation options.

Home Economics/Family Consumer Sciences can help guide these changes, making it easier for everyone to live sustainably and enjoy quality of life.

This 90 minute webinar will feature several presentations on the topic and a Q&A session. It will be at 11 am MT and there is no charge to join the webinar. For the Zoom link, email Kim Kamin at kimkamin2018@gmail.com



UN Sustainable Development Goal 12

USDA Food Loss & Waste Program

National Extension FCS Association Newsletter, December 2024

Related to the World Home Economics Day theme, USDA has a Food Loss and Waste (FLW) program which is housed in the NIFA Institute of Food Safety and Nutrition. Dr. Jean Buzby is the USDA Liaison who coordinates both government and non-governmental programs to measure and reduce the incidence of food loss and waste in the United States.

Objectives of this initiative are to prevent food loss, prevent food waste, increase recycling of all organic waste, transforming food into other valuable products, and support policies which encourage prevention of food loss/waste and to increase food recycling.

Advocacy Dos and Don't

Colorado and Wyoming are working together as part of AAFCS's Advocacy Initiative. Colorado President Jeanine Pope has been revamping the Colorado Website which is currently hosted on the AAFCS website. She has made connections with several Colorado Organizations/Associations which also focus on families and youth as a way to show the connection between Family and Consumer Sciences and their clientele.

But, all of us need to also be involved in advocating the need for and the value of Family and Consumer Sciences, not only in our schools, but also in our daily lives. Each of us know of individuals in our communities who are involved in various aspects of making or implementing policies which impact individuals and families.

Each of us have an issue or purpose we are passionate about, but often don't take time to share it with those who have a role in changing policy about an issue. You have likely all heard about the 20 second "elevator speech" where you can state your goal and 2 reasons for supporting the goal. Now is the time to develop your "elevator speech" and take time to feel confident in stating your purpose in 20 seconds.

AI Technology and Scams

Denver District Attorney's Office

While AI-generated documents are being used extensively, there is an increased concern about the challenge of identifying fraudulent content. In the past, scams could often be detected through obvious clues such as spelling errors, poor grammar, and unusual punctuation.

Now with advancements in AI technology, these telltale signs have mostly been eliminated and AI can create realistic content which blurs the line between legitimate and fraudulent communications. Another of the uses of AI for scams is to clone a person's voice from a short audio sample of the real voice.

While using AI in certain situations can be useful, it also needs to be monitored carefully. More than ever, ask yourself if "this is realistic" and take time to think it through before responding.

Member News

Congratulations Debbie Nelson

Debbie Nelson was recognized at the 2024 Association of Career and Technical Education National Conference with the FCS Division Roll of Honor. This is the highest award given at the National level by ACTE.

Debbie was recognized for her many years of serving the FCS profession locally, regionally and nationally. It is a very well-deserved honor for her many years serving the Family and Consumer Sciences profession.

Memoria – Peggy Berger

Peggy Berger recently passed away January 16, 2025 in Lynchburg, Virginia where she had retired. She will be remembered by many Colorado State University alumni for her dedication and support for Family and Consumer Sciences Education. She was Professor of FCS at CSU for 27 years and was awarded the title of Professor Emerita.

Peggy served as President of the Colorado AFCS Affiliate when it was still the Colorado Home Economics Association. She and her

sister and another colleague established the Wiley-Berger Volunteer Service Award through AAFCS. She continued to be active in a variety of organizations and community projects.

More info is available at Tharp Funeral Home & Crematory, Lynchburg, VA.

2025 AAFCS Conference

June 23-28

**Marriott Downtown 12th Street
Kansas City, Missouri**



Details about the 2025 Annual AAFCS Conference is on their website (aafcs.org) including a tentative schedule of events. While the official Conference begins on the evening of June 24 with a reception, there are additional meetings and Educational Excursions scheduled on Monday and Tuesday, June 23 and 24 and also Saturday, June 28.

The IFHE-US Cultural Event will be the evening of June 24 with the focus on Jazz and barbecue – both having historical traditions in Kansas City. Registration for the event is separate from the AAFCS Registration. Information will be included on the AAFCS Schedule of Events soon.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

2025

**March 15: Early Bird Registration DUE
CO/WY Affiliate Conference**

**March 22: World Home Economics Day
IFHE-US Webinar
“Tackling Overconsumption”**

**April 11: Registration DUE for
CO/WY Conference**

**April 25-26: Colorado /Wyoming AFCS
Affiliate Conference
University of Wyoming**

**TBA: Colorado AFCS 2025 Annual
Meeting by ZOOM**

**June 23-28: 2025 Annual Conference
Kansas City, Missouri**

**Sept. 26-28: 2025 AAFCS Leadership
Summit
Louisville, Kentucky**

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



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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