

The FAN Letter

Florida Affiliate News



July 2025

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President's Message

It is with great excitement and deep gratitude that I write to you as the incoming President of our incredible association. I am honored to serve such a passionate, dedicated, and forward-thinking group of professionals who work tirelessly to strengthen families and communities through FAFCS.

As we look ahead, I am energized by the opportunity to build on the work of our current and past outstanding leaders and members. I am especially looking forward to expanding our advocacy efforts, deepening our professional development offerings, and growing our membership by inspiring the next generation of FCS educators and professionals.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to **Enid Lapham** for her extraordinary leadership and steadfast dedication to our association. Her commitment and vision have brought us to where we are today, and I am so thankful for her continued support. I am thrilled that Enid will continue to serve as Past President and play a vital role in helping to plan our next face-to-face **Tri-State Conference with Alabama and Georgia**, which will be held in **Spring 2026 in the Florida Panhandle**. It promises to be an exciting opportunity to collaborate, learn, and reconnect.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to **Karin Athanas** for her insightful and engaging presentation during our recent state conference held on May 3rd via zoom. Her words reminded us of the power and relevance of our field in today's ever-evolving world. She left us with an incredible toolkit of resources that we can implement to expand our advocacy efforts. I also wish to express my sincere appreciation to **Dr. Ginger Phillips** for her incredible efforts in hosting such a successful and meaningful event. Your dedication does not go unnoticed.



Together, I know we will continue to elevate the impact of Family & Consumer Sciences across Florida and beyond. As we move forward together, let us continue to dream boldly, serve passionately, and uplift one another in the work we do. Our field has never been more important, and I am honored to be on this journey with all of you.

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

—Eleanor Roosevelt

With gratitude and excitement,

Dr. Suzanne West

President, Florida Association of Family & Consumer Sciences

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Conference Report—Donna McGrew

I felt privileged to attend the AAFCS Annual Conference on behalf of the Florida Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. I love networking with people from around the country and members from here in Florida including: (L-R) Niki Lockett, Amanda Daniels, Olivia Ursch, Tiffany Comacho, Dawn Williams, Paulette Goolsby, Jessica Raia-Long, Suzanne West, Enid Lapham, and then me. Joyce Cotner and Ginger Phillips are not pictured.



The Conference offered high-quality professional development and opportunities to

- Address issues and challenges impacting individuals, families and communities.
- Engage in critical dialogue and networking to build and strengthen relationships.
- Showcase the high-quality research and scholarship of FCS students and professionals.
- Explore emerging topics, technology, and advancements in the FCS field.
- Promote lifelong learning and continuing education in FCS content areas.
- Embrace a commitment to create inclusive environments, promote equitable practices and ensure access for all individuals within the organization.

One topic of special interest to some of our members is the new Body of Knowledge. We attended the session where it was reviewed. BOK refers to the teachings and skills required to work in a particular field or industry, commonly called core competencies. The actual contents of the body of knowledge for a particular profession evolves over time.

This re-examination and update to the conceptual framework of the FCS Body of Knowledge recognizes shifting social, technological, and professional landscapes and ensures that the framework remains relevant, reflective of current and future challenges and responsive to the diverse needs of both professionals and the communities they serve. The result of this collaborative effort is a renewed and retooled FCS Body of Knowledge, designed to serve as a blueprint for the profession in the decades ahead.

The updated FCS Body of Knowledge and accompanying resources are available at www.aafcs.org/fcs-bok

Nominations —submitted by Kim Griffin, Nominations Chair

Florida Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (FAFCS) Announces New 2025–2026 Executive Board Members

The Florida Association of Family and Consumer Sciences is pleased to announce the newly elected executive board members for the 2025–2026 term. We are excited to welcome these dedicated professionals who will help lead and support the mission of FAFCS in the coming year:

President-Elect: Donna McGrew

Secretary: Schane Coker

Treasurer: Dawn Williams

Nominating Committee Member: Ruth Gaines

Please join us in congratulating our new board members and thanking them for their service to the field of Family and Consumer Sciences. We look forward to a productive and inspiring year ahead under their leadership.



Fun with Numbers—A Report on FAFCS Membership!

(Submitted by Nancy Hamilton, VP for Membership) July 2025



Membership reports are sent to District Contacts each quarter and what better way to share our FAFCS Membership status than to have some fun with comparing numbers to last year's numbers.

57 is the number of Active members, as of 4/25/25; 57 as of 5/2024; **60 as of 7/25**

7 New members appeared on our reports during 2024-25 year; 4 during 2023-24

154 Total Terminated as of Spring 2025; 144 for Spring 2024

32% (19/60) have 50+ years of membership!

32% (19/60) have 25-49 years of membership!

23% (14/60 members have less than 5 years of membership

Region 2 continues to have the **LARGEST** number of members – 26 (43% of our total membership! **GREAT JOB!**

Just a few reminders:

Be sure to pay your dues during your birth month (or before).

Update your information on the AAFCS website so contact information is current. (www.AAFCS.org)

Be sure that the Membership Chairperson has current contact information for the contact person in your District designated to receive the quarterly reports and other pertinent membership information,

Welcome new members and keep them involved! RECRUIT



My Passion, My Calling-- Sixty-five Years and Counting

by Betty Mann McQueen, CFCS
CPO of Mann McQueen Enterprises,

I was waiting with great anticipation for the next membership report so that I could have bragging rights for being an AAFCS member in utero rather than at birth 86 years ago as was in the previous report. But alas. Someone fixed the computer glitch, so back to reality. And answering the observant mathematically minded member who really read that previous quarterly report, and rightly assumed, that I probably graduated with a bachelors degree at 21 or 22—and you’re right. I am not 108 years old!

I paid my first professional dues just before my 22nd birthday 65 years ago.

And yes, my intent is to continue to pay professional dues “until death do us part,” because family and consumer sciences is my calling. **No one ever retires from a calling.**

It never has been or will be a “just a job” for me, no matter what my job title or job description—and I’ve had many of both in the last 65 years as I walked both traditional and non-traditional pathways. Even on those days I buckled up my tool belt and grabbed my pink hard hat to be the only woman on a contraction site, I was a family and consumer sciences professional working as an electrician’s helper.

To me it was a no-brainer. Is not housing one of our subject matter areas? My required OSHA training was accepted for my PDU certification credentials. How could it be denied when the trainer was Jean Meadows, a Cooperative Extension Agent in Family and Consumer Sciences!

Is being a card-carrying professional member financially feasible on Social Security? Well, I’ll keep you posted. But I can’t imagine being as poor as graduate-student poor when I managed to pay full professional dues. How could I not do so?

One of my graduate student assignments was teaching 7th and 8th grades at Florida High School and supervising the pre-intern program for student teachers from Florida State University. How could I inspire a passion for our profession in these future professionals if I didn’t model a professional commitment as did my professors during my undergraduate years? And that included, not only paying my professional dues, but serving on the FHEA Board of Directors while in graduate school.

My passion for our profession was birthed with an aha moment when I was 16 on a field trip to the University of Nebraska. It was the closing words at the end of the day by the Dean of Home Economics that gave direction to my dream to be a teacher. She said, “Home economics is not a subject. It is an applied discipline. This means that, as a home economist, you will be using all the sciences, both physical and social, as well as all the arts—because every subject, even reading, writing, and math, has an application to the home.”

My Passion (continued)

That was the moment I realized, as a home economist, I could teach anything I wanted to teach because **I would be teaching a person, not a subject.** What freedom!

Society has changed in the years since I was 16. Our name has changed. We've expanded our boundaries to include both home and workplace education. The electronic highway is a way of life. Our community is the world and fast becoming the universe.

But our mission and my calling have not changed. The setting does not matter. I taught classes last year during my 14 months in assisted living, I have scheduled my first one next week in my new independent living facility. We are still and always will be equipping individuals for a fulfilling, productive life in both the home and the workplace. We do it wherever we are. We use every resource available.

Why? **Because family and consumer sciences is an applied discipline based on researched knowledge with measurable outcomes;** outcomes focused on strengthening the home environment which in turn strengthens the workplace, the community, the world, and the universe.

Residents and staff in both facilities seek me out, tell me their stories because word spreads that I can recommend manageable research-based options for dealing with issues of, but not limited to, nutrition, finances, entrepreneurship, grief, safe living environments, family relationship, boredom, negative talk. Having active membership and certification gives me credibility. Everyone has a home economics story—and an occasional family and consumer sciences one. They wonder where “it” went. I assure them— “it” is still here or I wouldn't be here!

And it is the responsibility of **each and every** family and consumer sciences professional to make sure “it” stays here. Fulfilling our mission takes a **collective voice** to influence decision-makers. For legislative decision-makers, it's all about numbers and they translate organizational membership numbers as voters. So if you want to save family and consumer sciences programs and/or you want employment in your chosen profession, **pay your dues and be counted.** If you want to change what's happening in our profession, **pay your dues and work collectively** for being part of the positive solution. If you sincerely believe in our profession, **invest in it. Pay your dues with your time, talent, and treasure.**

Financial ability to “afford” to pay AAFCS dues is all about perspective. **How many meals do you eat out each month?** It costs more to eat one meal in a restaurant than one month's AAFCS dues.

I've paid my own dues for 63 of my 65 years. I'm grateful to my employer for one of those years and for the AAFCS hardship dues-waiver program after Hurricane Irma for the other one. **But paying my professional dues is my responsibility.**

That brings me back to my expressed intent to continue to pay professional AAFCS dues “until death do us part.” I will do so in gratitude for the past and in support of the present and the future of our profession. I will do so because our country needs us more than any time in our history. My vision is that family and consumer sciences will be a vital force in our world long after I make my transition. And when my journey on planet earth is over, I plan to put my application in for the CPO (Chief Possibilities Officer) of God's Mansion of Many Rooms. Talk about unlimited possibilities and resources for manifestation—true heaven for a passionate family and consumer sciences professional!

FAFCS 1 REGION REPORT**SUMMER 2025**

Submitted by: Diann Douglas

We would like to welcome a new member, Senna Giles, to FAFCS. She lives in Niceville Florida which is in the panhandle.

Region 1 is privileged to have two Universities with programs in Family and Consumer Sciences. Florida State University has the College of Human Sciences and the University of Florida is home to the Extension Service with county faculty delivering FCS programs to local residents. Two leaders were willing to share updates on the learning institutions.

Dr, Shannon Horrillo, Associate Dean for Extension and State program Leader for FCS at the University of Florida sent a summary of the accomplishments in the area of financial literacy and housing.

Building Financial Resilience Through Financial Literacy and Housing Education in Florida

UF/IFAS Extension addresses critical financial and housing challenges facing Florida through evidence-based educational programs. As a HUD-approved housing counseling agency, through statewide Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) programs, UF/IFAS Extension delivers evidence-based education and personalized support to help Floridians make informed housing decisions, improve financial literacy, and build long-term economic security.

Key Housing Education Programs:

- **First-Time Homebuyer Workshops:** Help participants understand affordability, improve credit, and access down payment assistance.
 - 38% of attendees purchased homes within a year.
 - 47% decided to wait to improve their financial situation before purchasing.
 - 26% received purchase assistance from local government or lender programs.
- **Home Maintenance & Safety:** Teach seasonal upkeep, hazard prevention, and energy efficiency.
 - 100% of renters improved their understanding of maintenance practices.
 - 99% of homeowners remained stably housed after home repairs provided through local government partners.
- **Housing Counseling Services:** One-on-one support for renters, buyers, and those facing foreclosure.
 - 26% of clients purchased homes within a year of counseling.

Financial Education Integration: UF/IFAS also offers robust financial literacy programs for individuals across the lifespan – ranging from middle and high school students to young adults to retirees.

Impact at a Glance:

- Over 39,000 Floridians reached annually through these programs.
- In follow-up surveys, the following behavior changes were reported:
 - 8,842 improved money management or financial capability
 - 7,248 adopted positive financial practices and behaviors.
 - 5,532 completed financial milestones (e.g., improved credit, filed taxes, bought homes)

Region 1 report (continued)

UF/IFAS Extension's integrated approach ensures that individuals and families across Florida are equipped with the knowledge and tools to achieve housing stability and financial resilience.

Dr. Panny Ralston, Professor, Dean Emeritus and Director of the Center on Better Life for Underserved Populations at Florida State University shared a summary of recent activities on campus.

FSU Update:

As many of you know, in keeping with national trends, the College of Human Sciences was merged with the College of Education to form the **College of Education, Health & Human Sciences**. The good news in this merger is that we have become one of the larger colleges in the university and two of our existing departments remain intact. These include the **Department of Human Development & Family Science** and the **Department of Health, Nutrition & Food Sciences**. The **Jim Moran College of Entrepreneurship** is under the leadership of **Dr. Susan Fiorito**, a long-time faculty member in Human Sciences, receiving her B.S. degree at FSU in home economics education in 1973. Links to the websites are provided below and you will note an impressive set of faculty and exciting ongoing research. The dean of the College, **Dr. Damon Andrews**, was an advisor in Human Sciences over 20 years ago and has many fond memories of the College of Human Sciences. He remains active in the Board on Human Sciences in the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU).

Dr. Raulston thinks the merger strategically positions the College and its departments in terms of visibility at FSU, with the opportunity for more resources and support.

<https://annescollege.fsu.edu/academics/departments/departments-human-development-family-science>

In Memorial

We have lost two giants in our field, **Dr. Marian L. Davis** and **Dr. Clinita Ford**.

Dr. Davis died on October 6, 2023. A native of Coshocton, Ohio, she was a faculty member at FSU in the Department of Textiles & Consumer Sciences. She was known nationally and internationally for her textbooks, now classics, and for her work in developing home economics programs around the world. In particular, she was instrumental in the further development of the field in China where she established exchange programs at colleges and universities and helped to spearhead the pre-conference held in China prior to the 1996 International Federation of Home Economics Congress in 1996.

Dr. Clinita Ford died on March 14, 2025. A native of Muskogee, Oklahoma, she was a faculty member at Florida A&M University in nutrition, receiving the master's degree in food, nutrition and institutional management from Columbia University and the PhD in nutrition and biochemistry from Kansas State University. She was known nationally and internationally, not only for her expertise in nutrition but also for her work in higher education. Of note was her groundbreaking work student recruitment and retention in higher education, receiving one of the first federal grants that led to the establishment of Upward Bound. She was also active in the community, including serving as a past president of the Tallahassee Chapter of The Links, Incorporated and as an influential member of the local Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha. She was the loving wife of James R. Ford, Sr., retired educator and Tallahassee's first African American Mayor. Dr. Ford's accomplishments are numerous as noted in her obituary at this link: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/tallahassee-fl/clinita-ford-12289630>

2025 Award Recipients Submitted by Kendra Hughson**Teacher of the Year****Chef Tiffany Camacho**

Passion, dedication, and leadership define my journey as a culinary educator and mentor. My commitment to student success and community impact has shaped my role as an instructor at Jacobson Culinary Arts Academy, where I inspire the next generation of culinary professionals. Through my work, I have empowered students to develop skills that extend beyond the kitchen, fostering leadership, professional-

ism, and service—qualities that align with the mission of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. One of my most significant contributions is my involvement in SkillsUSA, a career and technical student organization that builds leadership, teamwork, and industry-specific skills. I have actively recruited and mentored students, encouraging them to participate in competitions and assume leadership roles at regional, state, and national levels. In the past year, I successfully guided students to become regional officers and facilitated their participation in leadership conferences. My dedication to their growth extends beyond competition preparation; I strive to cultivate confidence and professionalism, helping students see their potential in the culinary industry and beyond.

Beyond the classroom, I engage in initiatives that bridge education and community service. My students participate in American Culinary Federation (ACF) meetings and events, gaining real-world exposure while networking with industry professionals. Additionally, I support local organizations, such as Feeding the Fosters Mission, where my students and I dedicate time to preparing meals for foster families. I believe that culinary education is not just about mastering techniques but also about using our skills to serve others, a philosophy I instill in every student.

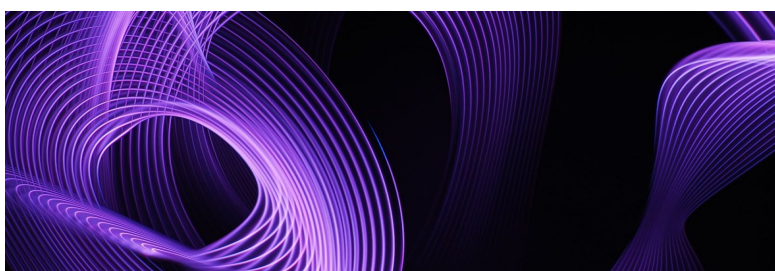
Financial accessibility in education is another area where I strive to make an impact. Recognizing the costs associated with professional development opportunities, I actively seek funding and grants to support students. Recently, I applied for a grant to cover expenses for a Community Action Project competition, ensuring that financial barriers do not hinder students from participating in experiences that can shape their futures.

Tiffany Camacho (continued)

Financial accessibility in education is another area where I strive to make an impact. Recognizing the costs associated with professional development opportunities, I actively seek funding and grants to support students. Recently, I applied for a grant to cover expenses for a Community Action Project competition, ensuring that financial barriers do not hinder students from participating in experiences that can shape their futures.

My commitment to excellence extends to my own professional development. As a former scholarship recipient from the *Evening with the Chefs* event, I now give back by working closely with the foundation that supported me. I also continue to refine my teaching methods by incorporating deliberate practice strategies, focusing on student feedback, progress recognition, and knowledge reinforcement. These efforts ensure that I provide the highest quality education and mentorship possible.

My contributions to education, leadership, and community engagement demonstrate my commitment to the core values of AAFCS. I strive not only to be an educator but also a role model who inspires students to pursue their dreams and contribute to their communities. By combining technical expertise with leadership and service, I have made a meaningful impact on my students and the field of family and consumer sciences.



ENID LAPHAM

FAFCS PRESIDENT 2024-2025

Thank up for your service!

Enid is a retired FCS teacher, and also a Science teacher. She has 42 years of teaching in 2 countries (US and Australia) She has held several FAFCS offices, Secretary, District Chair in 2 districts and has been President twice. She is a proud Purdue Alumna. She has been married 37 years, has a son and one granddaughter.



Extension Excellence Award

Kendra Hughson

As the Northwest Extension District Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) RSA, I lead, implement, teach, and evaluate districtwide and statewide Family and Consumer Sciences programs. I develop action plans based on input from the Northwest District Program Implementation Team serving as an advisory committee to the RSA. I assist and support county FCS faculty throughout the district and state in program development, implementation and evaluation. I plan, implement, and teach professional development in-service training for Family and Consumer Sciences

and other faculty throughout the district and state. I support county faculty to develop strong FCS programs to successfully advance through the tenure and promotion system. I support county faculty in the development of FCS core competencies, leadership, and other skills to build impactful county programs.

As an Agent IV, my leadership includes implementing statewide programs and policies in collaboration with the Associate Dean, Program Leader, and Priority Work Groups I currently serve on the leadership team for Initiative 5 and as the co-chair of the Mental Health and Wellness Priority Work Group under the Initiative 5 Team: Improving individual, family and community health. I develop partnerships and collaborations on projects with internal and external organizations. I serve as project leader and principal investigator or co-principal investigator on sponsored projects. In my role as interim state program leader for Family and Consumer Sciences, I developed and implemented FCS common measures and common surveys that will lay the foundation for the Initiative 5 team's piloting of PEARS and other statewide data collection efforts. I served as Family and Consumer Sciences Interim Program Leader from 2023-2024.

I specialize in health and wellness programs, specifically mental health programs. I lead the statewide Farm Well program to address mental health and the underlying causes of stress in agriculture communities. The project includes agents and specialists across program areas. It has been funded through a southern region partnership and USDA grants. I have held certification as a Mental Health First Aid Instructor and I am currently certified as a Question, Persuade, and Refer (QPR) Suicide Prevention Instructor.

I am a current member of AAFCS and the Florida Affiliate. I have served as the Awards Chair of FAFCS since 2020. My Farm Well team provided training at the 2024 state conference. We educated the membership on the issue of farm stress. Participants were trained in Question, Persuade, and Refer: Suicide Prevention Training. This is an evidence-based suicide prevention and mental health program.

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