

2026 WAFCS Conference



Thursday, February 26, 2026

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	
Option 1	<p>Seats and Brides ‘n Belles Tours–Reedsburg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit one of the most diverse seating manufacturers in the nation–view first hand the design process, textile application, and sewing for transports with wheels or tracks. • Discover how a bridal and prom business has evolved over the years and explore the strategies the owner uses to stay ahead of the latest trends in bridal, prom, and tuxedo fashion. <p>Attendees will start at Seats and then make their way to Brides ‘n Belles. (Carpooling is suggested but the thought is to rent a van as well for people that do not want to drive the 15 miles) <i>Limit 30</i></p>
Option 2	<p>Wild Bearies (Elena Terry) and Dawn Manor–Dells Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elena Terry will use the kitchen at the Ho-Chunk House of Wellness to lead participants in indigenous cooking. • Tour the period themed dining rooms in this Wisconsin Dells restaurant to learn about the history of the real Dawn Manor. <p>15 participants will start at Wild Bearies (Ho-Chunk) while another 15 participants will start at Dawn Manor. After 75 minutes, groups will travel to the second location. (Carpooling is suggested. Ho-Chunk is about a 5 mile drive from the hotel while Dawn Manor is 1.5 miles from the hotel.)</p>
Option 3	<p>The Wisconsin Hotel and Beyond Blessed Food Pantry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Wisconsin Hotel will give a tour of the new hotel and talk about their approach to the hospitality industry. • Beyond Blessed is a local food pantry that serves over 700 families per week. Listen to creative means and logistics to secure food and volunteers. <p>Attendees will remain at the hotel for this session.</p>
12:00 - 1:00 PM Lunch & Networking	

1:00 - 4:15 PM	
1:00-4:15	<p>Gallup Clifton Strengths with Certified Gallup Strengths Coach Completing the online assessment is your way to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discover what you naturally do best • Learn to develop your greatest talents into strengths • Use your personalized results and reports to maximize your potential <p><i>(If choosing this session, you will need to do a pre-assessment prior to the conference. In addition, there is a \$25 fee for the assessment.)</i></p>
1:00-2:30	<p>RealityWorks (90 minutes) “Creating Interior Design Challenges – Designing for Accessibility and Client Needs”</p>
	<p>Wisconsin Pork Association (45 minutes) “Taste What Pork Can Do™ by Putting Flavor on the Table”</p>
	<p>Wisconsin Cranberry Growers Association(45 minutes)</p>
2:45-4:15	<p>Tiffany Bloss (90 minutes) Hands-on Interior Design Lessons and Ideas</p>
	<p>Kendra Scherg (90 minutes) “Methods to the Madness” This hands-on session will provide many ideas for student engagement and intentional teacher practices in the Child Development Classroom. Strategies and ideas can be applied across FCS content areas and participants will leave ready to work smarter, not harder!</p>

4:30 - 5:30 PM Mentoring Session

Join in as students and professionals pair up in a rapid fire speed mentoring session where introductions take place and then spontaneous feedback from experienced professionals can be given in real time. Build connections through networking during this one hour energy filled session.

6:30 - 8:00 PM Awards Banquet

8:00 - 8:50 PM Relax & Refresh

9:00 - 10:00 PM Student Unit Business Meeting

Friday, February 27, 2026

8:00-9:00 AM First General Session & Keynote

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Delores L. Williams

Dr. Williams started as an FCCLA member, competing in STAR Events. Her career pathway is loaded with a variety of FCS occupations including spending three summers working in Cuba developing restaurant concepts.

Driven by faith, fueled by purpose, and rooted in community, Dr. Williams is not just planting seeds, she's cultivating a more equitable and inspired future for generations to come. Williams has mentored thousands, developed community-based programs, launched mobile STEM labs, and consults with leaders. Her mission remains the same: to turn passion into progress and vision into victory.

Breakout #1

9:15-10:00 AM

**Arts & Design in the FCS Classroom
(Teaching Fashion & Textile Construction)**

This session will cover curriculum focus, projects, standards alignment, and FCCLA Competitive Event integration.

**Dee Dee Giovingo &
Maddi Tueting**

Fueling Disciplinary Literacy through AI in FCS Classrooms

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming the way educators design, deliver, and engage students in learning. This roundtable invites Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS) educators to explore how AI can enhance disciplinary literacy—the ability to read, write, think, and communicate like professionals within the FCS field.

Participants will discuss practical ways AI can be leveraged to support lesson planning, content creation, and literacy-based engagement across core FCS areas such as nutrition, apparel, family relations, and financial literacy. The session will highlight examples of how AI tools (such as ChatGPT and image generators, and more) can help students analyze scenarios, write reflections, and apply critical thinking while maintaining the human-centered focus of FCS education.

Amanda Drews

Boosting Your Foods/Culinary Courses with ProStart <i>Does your school have an existing foods or culinary program? Are you looking to bring ProStart to your school? This session will cover Wisconsin ProStart-an easy-to-implement culinary arts & hospitality education/training program that will provide structure and industry connections to your culinary program.</i>	Alex Vernon
Excellence in the Marketplace <i>As the founding team of Bella Goose Coffee, Jordan opened the first retail location of Bella Goose and has since grown to 7 locations in Wisconsin and Thailand combined. They roast, make syrups from scratch and have a full bakery production that makes all our pastries from scratch. Bella Goose has been active in anti trafficking and anti exploitation work since 2015.</i> <i>In one month the bakery preps 4,000 pastries for their flagship store. They have built their company based upon our values and driven on our beliefs that people have worth. The Bella Goose mentorship program is built into our employment. This session will focus on Excellence in the Marketplace as the story of Bella Goose is told.</i>	Jordan Heesch

Breakout Session #2

10:15-11:00 AM	
The Power of Ask: Funding the Future of FCS Through Community and Connection <i>Imagine what your program could do if you dared to dream—and dared to ask. This session will inspire and equip educators to grow their FCS programs through grant writing, community partnerships, and creative funding opportunities. Learn how to connect your classroom to your community, find “out of the box” funding sources, and build confidence in the power of the ask. Walk away with practical tools, real examples, and a renewed belief that persistence pays off when it comes to funding meaningful FCS projects.</i>	Melissa Litherland
Barn Quilts <i>Have you ever wondered how could I incorporate STEM into my FCE classroom? The answer: Barn Quilts. This INTERACTIVE session will explain how my Barn Quilt project utilizes STEM principles and how they can be embedded into your interior design curriculum. During this session you will have the opportunity to go through the steps of creating your own barn quilt template to take back to your classroom to integrate. Handouts will also be given. Have some fun and channel your creativity into creating a barn quilt.</i>	Lynn Weilbrenner

Practical Tools for Using AI in the Culinary Classroom and Beyond! <i>Are you a newcomer to the world of AI? This introductory session will showcase how culinary educators are using AI to increase their productivity and the productivity of their students. Implications beyond the culinary classroom will be discussed including rubric development. Bring your computer if you would like to work as we go.</i>	Jenny Wehmeier, CFCS & Theresa Schreiber
Sensory Science <i>Food is more than fuel—it's a full-body experience. This interactive session dives into the fascinating world of sensory eating, where taste, texture, smell, sight, and even sound come together to shape our eating habits and relationships with food. Participants will explore how sensory factors influence food preferences, aversions, and overall wellness, and how these insights can be applied in both personal and professional settings—from the classroom to the kitchen. Through hands-on activities and engaging discussion, you'll learn strategies to support mindful eating, encourage food exploration, and foster positive mealtime experiences for individuals of all ages.</i>	Sadie Hooker, CFCS

Breakout #3

11:15-12:00 PM	
Exploring the Human Services Career Cluster <i>Step into the world of Human Services, where compassion meets career opportunity. In this interactive session, educators will explore the broad range of professions within the Human Services career pathway: consumer services, counseling and mental health, early childhood development and services, family and community services, and personal care services. Participants will leave with ideas for developing a Human Services unit or course. Whether you teach health science or FCS, the Human Services career cluster can be integrated into your program.</i>	Christina Patrin, WI DPI
Wisconsin Agriculture in the FCS Classroom <i>Join us for an engaging breakout session, where we will explore the Agriculture in the Classroom materials specifically designed for Family and Consumer Sciences educators. Participants will discover innovative strategies to integrate agricultural concepts into their curriculum, enhancing students' understanding of food systems and sustainability. Together, we will share resources and best practices to empower educators in fostering a deeper connection between agriculture and the family & consumer sciences classroom.</i>	Sheila Kroseberg & Beth Schaefer

<p>Bridging Career Clusters & Service Through FCCLA</p> <p><i>This session highlights how careers, community service, and classroom learning are “ConneCTEd” through Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) and FCCLA. Participants will identify and summarize the six career clusters “ConneCTEd” to FCS, locate reliable resources, and explore how service learning links students to FCCLA and career pathways. The session will also showcase Wisconsin FCCLA’s community service partner while demonstrating how FCCLA’s classroom ready resources are “ConneCTEd” to FCS courses. Remember, you do not have to compete to get “ConneCTEd” with FCCLA.</i></p>	<p>Julie Anderson, CFCS Addy Hoyer, FCCLA State Officer & Advisor Sarah James</p>
<p>I Wish I Had This When I Was In High School</p> <p><i>Are you ready to bring personal finance to life for your students? As Family and Consumer Science teachers take on the essential task of teaching Personal Finance, having the right tools makes all the difference. In this interactive session, you’ll step into the shoes of a student and experience Money Path firsthand – comparing careers, identifying educational paths, and building a budget based on real-world salaries. You’ll also see the impact of long-term goal planning and get a glimpse of what retirement savings could look like for your chosen career path.</i></p> <p><i>Not only will you see how engaging and eye-opening this experience is for students, but you’ll also discover just how simple it is to implement in your curriculum. Whether you’re looking to enhance an existing course or launch a new Personal Finance class, Money Path provides a dynamic way to empower students with the financial knowledge they need for a successful future. Don’t miss this opportunity to gain a valuable, ready-to-use resource that your students will thank you for! Participants will receive a Lesson Guide, Portfolio Project Template, Curriculum Outline, and Personal Finance Standard Alignment document.</i></p>	<p>Jennifer Andreas</p>

12:00-1:10 PM Lunch & Keynote

Keynote Speaker: Executive Chef Elena Terry

Elena Terry is the Executive Chef/Founder of Wild Bearies, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing and educating about Indigenous foods and the culture around those foods. Chef Elena was a guest chef on the popular Bravo TV show Top Chef that aired on May 15, 2024. She described the experience as "a transformative moment". Along with a colleague from Minnesota they cooked a meal for the remaining contestants educating them on the importance of food in Native cultures. Since then, she has served as a mentor and guest judge for the 21st season of Top Chef.

Chef Elena has developed partnerships with James Beard Foundation, the Smithsonian, Food and Agriculture Organization to the United Nations, US State Department, Intertribal Agriculture Council, American Indian Foods Program, Advocates for Urban Agriculture, and UW System to name a few.

Breakout #4

1:15-2:00 PM	
Putting the YOU in Young Professional Panel <i>You asked and we are here to answer! New Family and Consumer Sciences Educators will share their experience in the first five years in the classroom. They will answer questions that were submitted, with time for questions throughout the session.</i>	Moderators: Susan Turgeson, CFCS & Amanda Drews Panel: Sadie Hooker, CFCS Ryan Lehman, CFCS Macey Newby Katie Sand
RealCare Baby: Bringing Infant Care to Life <i>Discover how the RealCare Baby® infant simulator can transform high school family and consumer science, health, or life-skills courses. This breakout session highlights strategies for integrating the lifelike baby dolls into lessons on child development, decision-making, and responsible parenting.</i>	Stacy Jacobs
Scams & Frauds <i>The Wisconsin Bureau of Consumer Protection will discuss the details of common scams, the warning signs of a scam, and what to do if you or someone you know falls victim to a scam or fraud. Helpful factsheets from The Bureau of Consumer Protection will be available. As Wisconsin's lead agency for consumer protection, the Bureau of Consumer Protection takes enforcement actions to fight fraudulent and deceptive practices that harm consumers and honest businesses.</i>	Jeff Kersten, DATCP
Strong Bodies <i>StrongBodies is more than a strength-training program, it's a statewide movement empowering adults to build physical strength, confidence, and social connection. StrongBodies uses progressive resistance training to improve health outcomes, reduce fall risk, and increase independence, especially among midlife and older adults.</i> <i>In this session, participants will learn how UW–Madison Division of Extension's Health & Well-Being Institute partners with local organizations, volunteer leaders, and community health workers to expand access to StrongBodies across rural, tribal, and urban communities. Participants will be able to test their own levels of fitness. Presenters will share program outcomes, innovative adaptations (including trauma-informed, bilingual, and intergenerational models), and practical tools to bring StrongBodies to your county or classroom.</i>	Angie Flickinger & Jen Whitty

2:05-3:00 PM Closing Session & Body of Knowledge

3:00 PM Closing Remarks

3:30-6:30 PM CFCS Exam (Tentative)