

# WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY CONSUMER SCIENCES

WAFCS News – August, 2024

- *Nominate yourself or a colleague for one of WAFCS AWARDS - due Oct 15th*  
(New Achiever, Teacher of the Year, Leader Award - all info found at [aafcs.org/wafcs/home](http://aafcs.org/wafcs/home))
- *Save the Date to attend the WAFCS Conference on Feb 27-28, 2025*  
(Holiday Inn in Green Bay, WI)
- *Executive Board meetings will be Oct 9, Dec 11, Feb 12 and Apr 16*  
(Membership is able to attend board meetings.)

## 2024-2025 Executive Officers

### President – Sue Strutz

FCS Educator at School District of Wisconsin Dells

### President Elect – Cathy Lader

Retired FCS Educator, Co-Owner of Bradford House

### Past President – Michael Westbrook

FCS Educator at North Fond Du Lac Area Schools

### Secretary – Judy Knudsen

Retired Extension Director for Brown County

### Treasurer – Susan Turgeson

Full Professor of FCS, UW-Stevens Point

### VP of Professional Development – Stephanie Fox

FCS Educator at North Fond Du Lac Area Schools

### VP of Awards & Recognition – Tara Weber

FCS Educator at Medford Area School District

### VP of Communication & Technology – Jade Schenzel

FCS Educator at Rosholt School District

### Membership Chair – Ryan Lehman/Kelly Yeakey

FCS Educators at New Glarus/Menasha Schools

WAFCS has many more stars to be recognized for the **Leader Award**, **Teacher of the Year** and the **New Achiever!** Fill out the award applications found on our website that must be submitted by **October 15th** to Tara Weber at [weberta42@gmail.com](mailto:weberta42@gmail.com) and Mary Kennedy at [kennmaindel@gmail.com](mailto:kennmaindel@gmail.com).

We are excited to announce the WAFCS Conference keynote speaker for Friday afternoon, Jessica Calarco, author of 'Holding It Together'

**HOLDING IT  
TOGETHER**

**HOW  
WOMEN BECAME  
AMERICA'S  
SAFETY NET**

**JESSICA CALARCO**

have social safety nets. The U.S. has women. *Holding It Together* explores the causes and dire consequences. Women—women who are tasked with holding society together when things fall apart. In this tour de force, acclaimed author Jessica Calarco lays bare the devastating consequences of our status quo. Calarco draws on five years of research in which Calarco conducted more than 400 hours of interviews with women in a system. A widowed single mother struggles to patch together a life while working three jobs; an aunt is pushed into caring for a grandchild once their family is shattered by the opioid epidemic; a woman who works as a stop caregiver for her mother, her husband, and her children. Calarco explores the fragility of her job; a well-to-do couple grapples with the cost of a child; underpaid childcare providers to achieve their dreams; and a woman who grieves and guilt abound. Yet, they are more than individual stories. Calarco traces policy back to their roots, Calarco reveals a system of social safety net and persuade citizens to accept the burden. She leads us to see women's labor as the backbone of the support systems that our peer nations take for granted. Calarco maintains the illusion that we don't need a net. Calarco's original research with revelatory sociological narratives and a call to demand the institutional change that each of us faces the perils of living without it.

### IFHE Travelship Appreciation

Dear WAFCS Foundation:

My experience at the 2024 IFHE Congress at the University of Galway, Ireland was enrichment in the profession that I love. International home economists shared research and personal stories showing me how universal nutrition, family, and educational issues are worldwide. The travelship allowed me to become part of IFHE for continued connection to worldwide issues. I met several participants where we shared our stories, hugged, laughed and even cried (happy tears). Thank you for the chance to broaden my professional input.

Sincerely, Jeanne Schwass-Long

### FOUNDATION DONATIONS

The WAFCS Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following generous donations made since the April

WAFCS News:

- In honor of the WAFCS Student Members  
Rita Houser
- In honor of Emily Larson, 2024 AAFCS Teacher of the Year Merit Finalist  
Nyla Musser
- In honor of Cathy Lader, 2024 WAFCS Leader  
Mary Kennedy
- Commemorating the retirement of Carol Anderson as Director for the AAFCS Council for Accreditation  
Nyla Musser  
Susan Turgeson
- In honor of Judy Knudsen's 43-year Extension Career  
Karen Goebel  
Chris Kniep  
Jean Zeithaml
- In honor of Dr. Susan Turgeson's promotion to full Professor  
Janet Powell  
Jean Zeithaml
- In memory of Dick Zeithaml, husband of Jean Zeithaml  
Karen Goebel & Gerry Campbell  
Rita Houser  
Lynn & Kevin Klatt  
Nyla Musser  
Janet Powell  
Cindy & Dale Quilling  
Carol Subera  
Susan & Kory Turgeson  
Jean Zeithaml

### Are you Certified in FCS? (CFCS)

The WAFCS professional certification assures the public that the individual has:

1. attained a threshold level of knowledge that enables them to perform services as defined by the mission of the profession.
2. CFCS certification promotes professional growth by encouraging a systematic program of professional development and continuing education.
3. The CFCS credential distinguishes professionals with validated competency and a commitment to achieving excellence through ongoing professional development.
4. The WAFCS Foundation offers a \$100 certification incentive to WAFCS members who become fully certified. A great program that is greatly appreciated by WAFCS members!

### WAFCS FOUNDATION BOARD MEETING

The WAFCS Foundation Board met on August 5, 2024 to discuss the Mary Kay Merwin bequest of \$103,398.87 to the Foundation. The Merwin bequest is currently invested in five laddered certificates of deposit (CDs) ranging from seven months to 48 months. After much discussion, decisions were made including the following:

\*The Foundation reaffirmed its investment policy of using certificates of deposit (vs. using an outside investment firm, assuming risks, incurring fees, requiring more of a commitment to monitor, and challenges to change names for authorization, etc.) \*The Foundation will consider offering funding opportunities that could utilize both earnings as well as principal of Foundation funds. \*In light of the Merwin bequest, the Foundation will increase the amounts of most existing funding opportunities. \*In light of the Merwin bequest, the Foundation will consider offering new and innovative funding opportunities and requests for funding, within the purview of Foundation guidelines. \*The IFHE travelships will be renamed as the "Mary Kay Merwin IFHE Travelships" (for professionals and students) to recognize Mary Kay's involvement in IFHE, most recently as Development Chair.

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Editor: Cindy Quilling

All newsletter submissions are due the 15th of each month to  
cindyquilling.wafcs@gmail.com

## **The 2024 IFHE World Congress: Supporting Families: Lessons Local to Global**

*IFHE Conference Reflection by Cathy Lader*

### **Imagine:**

*\*exploring in the lush green countryside of Ireland \*experiencing cordial hospitality and quick Irish wit \*attending the IFHE World Congress in Galway on the rocky shores of the Atlantic Ocean.*

*The U.S. Affiliate Pre-Conference Food & Fiber Tour was a memorable feast for our senses; we embraced the culture, people, sights, and sounds of the Emerald Isle. Much gratitude and appreciation to our tour leaders Sue Buck, Wisconsin and Joyce Cavanaugh, Texas. Each morning of the World Congress, Irish leaders in education addressed the delegates. One presenter, Professor Pat Nolan, University of Galway, shared Supporting Families: Lessons Local to Global, which focused on how to best support families during adversity.*

### **Key Take-Aways from the Presentation:**

- The importance of one reliable caring person in people's lives.
- Food often is a tool of empathy.
- Techniques to support families include (Rutters):
  - *\*Reduce risk impact \*Reduce negative chain reaction*
  - *\*Promote self-esteem and self-efficacy \*Provide opportunities.*
- Activate social empathy programs in schools and communities with content that includes: *\*Understanding empathy \*Practicing empathy \*Overcoming barriers to empathy \*Putting empathy in action.*
- Factors that influence the development of global perspective among adolescents:
  - *\*Empathy – the ability to understand the emotions of others and the ability to share the emotions and feelings of others (Joliffe & Farrington, 2007) \*Social Responsibility – a value orientation representing an individual's concern and regard for the welfare of others (Flanagan, 2003) \*Civic Engagement – a type of pro-social activity directed at the community wider society (Metzger & Smetana, 2010)*

*Nolan ended with Mr. Rogers reminding us to Be Kind, Be Kind, Be Kind. Visit/revisit his book The Good Neighbor and/or consider watching the movie, Won't You Be My Neighbor.*

### **My Reflections:**

- *FCCLA is a dynamic means to extend learning beyond the secondary classroom and provides opportunities for member's civic engagement and social responsibility.*
- *WI FCS programs ought to demonstrate a balance of classes that address "work of the family" and career readiness.*
- *When individuals engage in community/global initiatives their focus shifts from "me" to "we."*

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