



# eNews Capsule

New York State Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Education  
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## President's Message

Well, after a long snowy winter here in the Hudson Valley it looks like spring has finally sprung. I have snow drops and crocuses in my yard and the temperatures are above freezing in the morning when I go to work. While the weather was still much colder last month Chris Bunn, Connie Spohn, I and a few others from NYSACTE and the CTE Technical Assistance Center traveled to Washington, D.C. to Lobby for Perkins funding.

So you may ask why we care about Perkins funding as most, but not all of the Perkins money in New York State goes to BOCES programs. Strong CTE programs in BOCES result in continued support for CTE in our local schools. If the government doesn't support CTE in general the perception of our value on the local level is diminished. Therefore, what is good for "them" is also, by association good for us. Furthermore, as CTE educators we know the value of other CTE programs and should support them regardless of where or by whom they are implemented. Thus when emails are sent asking for support of CTE legislation or programs it is in all of our best interests to respond and do what is best for students across our state.

This is one of the reasons that our CTE supporters letter writing campaign is so important. If you are having trouble understanding how FACS and CTE are linked Chris Bunn and I have created a Knovio presentation that addresses this connection. Be sure to attend your local professional development regional meeting where the presentation will be shown.

As we visited with our congressmen and senators this year, as opposed to three years ago, one thing was very clear — we did not have to explain

what CTE is. Most seemed to know exactly what we do and were familiar with Perkins. This trip was more about asking these officials to restore Perkins funding to previous levels with the possibility of an increase. We also asked if they would be willing to join a CTE caucus that has been established to support CTE programs and funding. Overall, we felt it was a productive trip with, hopefully, positive results.

As the school year progresses so should our resolve to promote FACS as CTE and continue our letter writing campaign. Contact all of the businesses, parents, and student alumni who you can think of and let them know that Family and Consumer Sciences has a strong presence in our schools and is an integral part of CTE.

Businesses that receive your letters will gain a better understanding of FACS and CTE which, in turn will provide valuable PR for us. Those business people who actually respond by writing letters on our behalf will become important advocates for Family and Consumer Sciences programs across the state. So there is no excuse not to join this letter writing campaign. Feel good about your participation in this endeavor as all efforts will reap positive results. You really can make a difference!

Constance Costley, NYS AFCSE President  
[conniebv@hotmail.com](mailto:conniebv@hotmail.com)

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## CALL TO ACTION

Christine Bunn, NYS AFCSE President-elect

In the March eNews Capsule, our membership was CALLED TO ACTION by our association president, Connie Costley. In an effort to garner support for New York State Career and Technical Education, of which Family and Consumer Sciences is a part, Connie urged that we write letters to area businesses and other supporters requesting that they voice their support of CTE.

This CALL TO ACTION is driven by a need for all CTE content areas to come together to increase awareness and gather support for CTE/FACS education. This awareness and purpose drives funding and programming in our districts. Ultimately, our ability to impact worker employability skills is controlled by our collective ability to offer programs in our schools. The quality and quantity of CTE programs is driven by funding and educator investment in high quality outcomes that show documented results.

By contacting local businesses and supporters, you are personally taking action for providing documented results to Commissioner King and the Board of Regents. So, I urge you to do your part to offer direction to the future of Career and Technical Education. The March 16<sup>th</sup> Monday Memo contains suggested sample letters that may be personalized for your purposes.

Thank you for your participation in this most important CALL TO ACTION!!!

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Professional Development (PD) Leaders met in Albany on Friday March 7, 2014. An abundance of information was presented. The following topics were discussed:

- Continued discussion on how information is disseminated to the local areas
- CTE/FACS how do we fit into the big picture tutorial was presented by Connie Costley, NYS President and Christine Bunn, NYS President Elect. Use the following link to access the presentation, <http://www.knov.io.1jI89Cn>
- Dick Jones “Rigor and Relevance” a Webinar on the information that is available on the CTE Technical Assistance web site <http://www.nyctecenter.org/spn/article.php?id=10103>
- Information brought back from the National CTE Career Tech Vision 2013 meeting in Las Vegas including exceptional keynote speaker presentations, iPads in the Classroom and

Web 2.0 resources

<https://www.acteonline.org/vision/>

Look for these topics and resources at your next area meeting! Below is a list of the areas and corresponding PD leader. If you do not see a PD leader in your area consider joining us for the next professional development leadership training session on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Please contact us for more information about the next meeting or about joining our team.

<b>Capital District North</b>	<b>Sally Taibe</b>
<b>Capital District South</b>	<b>Danielle Manning</b>
<b>Central</b>	<b>Robin Brenner</b>
<b>Finger Lakes East</b>	<b>Maureen Bolger</b>
<b>Finger Lakes West</b>	<b>Nancy Amory</b>
<b>Hudson Valley Northeast</b>	<b>Marie Elliott</b>
<b>Hudson Valley Northwest</b>	<b>June Wolfersteig</b>
<b>Hudson Valley South</b>	<b>Ann Sicheri</b>
<b>Hudson Valley Southwest</b>	<b>Christine Madigan</b>
<b>Hudson Valley West</b>	<b>Fran Callan Janice Marsiglio Jane Accardi</b>
<b>Long Island East</b>	<b>Cindy Theiss</b>
<b>Long Island West</b>	<b>Diane Weiner</b>
<b>Mohawk Valley East</b>	<b>Cindy Rundblad</b>
<b>Mohawk Valley West</b>	<b>Rosanne Mastrangelo</b>
<b>New York City</b>	
<b>North Country Central</b>	<b>Sue Lanning Anne Root</b>
<b>North Country East</b>	<b>Jim Testo (AC &amp; PD)</b>
<b>North Country West</b>	<b>Marissa Paquin</b>
<b>Southern Tier East</b>	<b>Teresa Steflik</b>
<b>Southern Tier Southeast</b>	<b>Mary MacNaught</b>
<b>Southern Tier West</b>	
<b>Western North</b>	<b>Marcus Moses Cheryl Hurd (AC &amp; PD)</b>
<b>Western South</b>	<b>Amanda Purdy</b>

NYS AFCSE Professional Development Co-leaders

Heidi Hobbs [hhobbs@nscsd.org](mailto:hhobbs@nscsd.org)

Sheryl Garofano [sgarofan@nscsd.org](mailto:sgarofan@nscsd.org)

## Ask a Pro

*Dear Pro: March was National Nutrition Month and by tying in with that I got some good PR for my program. Is there anything for April that I can use to promote my FACS program?*

Congratulations on taking advantage of Nutrition Month to help your program. Local media love to tie in with things like that and with budget season upon us, you're smart to use April as well.

No matter what unit you're teaching now, April has lots going on to help you promote your program.

### Child Development:

- Month of the Young Child
- Child Abuse Prevention Month
- 3rd week is Shaken Baby Awareness Week
- 4/26-5/3 is National Infant Immunization Week  
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niiw/index.html>

### Foods & Nutrition:

- National Food Month
- National Soy Foods Month

### Varied Content Areas:

- Consumer Education Month
- Financial Literacy Month
- Stress Awareness Month
- Community Service Month
- 22nd - Earth Day
- 23rd-29th -TV Turnoff Week

All it takes is an email to your local paper. It might begin as follows: *As you might know April is Month of the Young Child. It was started in order to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families. I thought you might be interested in what the students at (school name) are doing in their Family & Consumer Sciences class in relation to this topic.* Then describe what your students are doing and don't forget to include the connection to career exploration or job skills to reinforce the CTE link.

One of my favorite activities for Consumer Education Month is to have students conduct a "Teen Consumers Report". They select products teens use, design and do blind tests based on the model used in *Consumer Reports*, and then give presentations on their findings as well as writing them up for the school paper. Yes, they tested, gum, brownies, highlighters, sneakers and the like but they learned a lot, incorporated math, science and ELA, and the newspaper was so intrigued, they sent a reporter and a photographer.

You could also have your students write letters to the editor, articles for the district newsletter, announcements for the school PA, PSA's for a local radio station or even letters to the Board of Regents as per our president's request.

*Ask a Pro appears monthly. If you'd like information, suggestions or advice from a seasoned FACS veteran, just email [phillip3@twcny.rr.com](mailto:phillip3@twcny.rr.com) If you'd like an answer sooner than next month's issue, just ask. NYS AFCSE is there for YOU!*

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The eNews Capsule is edited by Ann Coleman and distributed by Barbara Mikler-Crandon. It is sent monthly to our paid membership. Interested teachers can join NYS AFCSE by contacting Kim DeHart, [FACSmembership@nycap.rr.com](mailto:FACSmembership@nycap.rr.com)