



# eNews Capsule

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

Gratitude is the theme of this month's president's message. My mother taught me at an early age that you should always send thank you notes and to be grateful for what you have. I am very thankful for all of the NYS AFCSE leaders who have come before me to allow me to have a career that I love. I strongly believe that the reason I am able to make a career out of what I truly enjoy doing is because of NYS AFCSE.

I am thankful for the current members who realize the value that "strength in numbers" gives to the NYS AFCSE voice. When I write letters on behalf of NYS AFCSE it is the strength of our membership behind me that gives the message merit.

I want to say "Thank You" to all who wrote letters in the recent call to action. I appreciate the time it takes in your busy schedule to carve out a few hours to support FACS/CTE. The Regents are listening to our message and are continuing to discuss CTE as a major influence in the success of our students. It is not too late to show your support, or to ask others to show theirs. The Regents are still interested in hearing from business leaders/CTE supporters and what they have to say. This call is not over and we will need to have a continued steady support over the next few months. If summer is a better time for you to rally support then set aside an afternoon and "Just Do It"!

I thank you for being a professional FACS educator, for attending professional development workshops on the weekends and after school, for advising FCCLA and many other clubs and after school activities and for being a positive member of your school community. I thank you for

making a difference in your students lives, for giving them the skills they need to succeed and for connecting with that one student who needed a positive adult in his or her life.

I would like to thank the current NYS AFCSE executive board for supporting me in my efforts to move NYS AFCSE forward. The dedication they have shown to FACS education and the personal support I have received from them has been instrumental in our ability to do the work that we have done collectively to help support you in your local areas and classrooms.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your president and I am pleased that we have had Christine Bunn as our president-elect; she will continue the progress made by the NYS AFCSE board during my term. I have no doubt that you will be in good hands with her as your leader. She will carry on the work we have started and persist with moving us forward in a positive direction.

I hope you all have restful and fun-filled summer break, and thank you once again for your dedication to our students and our profession.

Constance Costley, NYS AFCSE President  
conniebv@hotmail.com

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## What Happened at the Regents Meeting?

The Board of Regents met on May 19 and 20, 2014. There were several Career and Technical Education (CTE) items before the board (Please see them listed below). The most important one for Family and Consumer Sciences educators was presented by Deputy Commissioner Ken Slentz and was entitled, "Pathways to Graduation." "Pathways to Graduation" was a conceptual draft framework for discussion (one more time!) made up of 33 slides and is available at <http://www.regents.nysed.gov/>.

Deputy Slentz set the discussion by reminding the Board that under current regulations the statewide graduation rate is approximately 74 percent. He added context to the rate by explaining that graduates completing the required 22 credits and scoring the minimum 65% on five Regents exams are “eligible” for college and career, but not necessarily “ready” for either college or career. For example, will the college student need remediation prior to taking credit-bearing courses? Will the worker be successful in meeting the demands of full-time employment? “Pathways to Graduation” asked whether graduation requirements could be crafted in such a way that they would lead to more direct preparation of graduates for both college and career.

While the slide deck is quite extensive and detailed, three slides provide the broad outline for the potential pathways to graduation:

- **Slide 2- Goal**  
By 2015, NYS will have an established set of pathways to graduation that are grounded in the Common Core Learning Standards, are similarly rigorous, allow for student choice and have demonstrated, effective outcomes for students.
- **Slide 17 -Why Invest in a Pathways Approach?**  
Under the current system of Completion, far too many students are either dropping out of school or are not having their academic needs met thereby leading to increasing levels of remediation in entry level college classes and/or unsuccessful attempts to achieve a living wage job. The lack of coherence between K-12 and college and/or career/industry must be remedied by a model of Readiness which contains a combination of common expectations (CCLS) and multiple, similarly rigorous pathways which lead to student success.  
Multiple student-choice driven pathways will increase student engagement, student achievement, and ultimately, college, career and citizenship readiness. The result will be a strengthening of our economy and our democratic way of life.

- **Slide 19- Required Elements of Pathways**

Appropriate Assessments and Related High Rigor Courses in Each Pathway  
Opportunities for Students to Enter and Exit Pathway Options

Further, slides 20 through 33 show the possible set of pathway options including CTE, Math, Sciences, Humanities, and the Arts.

Although the discussion of multiple pathways to graduation has been visited numerous times since 2010, the concrete detail in this presentation was new. The Board of Regents agreed to devote substantial time to the pathways to graduation at their July meeting.

Other May Regents CTE items you may wish to review are available at

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2014/May2014/514monthmat.html>

- [Expansion of Integrated Credits in Approved CTE Programs](#) -decision item  
The NYSED CTE team is charged with drafting new regulations allowing increased academic credits in approved CTE programs.
- [Panel Discussion on the Benefits of Participation in Career and Technical Student Organizations \(CTSO\)](#) - discussion item
- [Consideration and Expansion of CTE Technical Assessment Study](#) – discussion item
- [Accountability Equivalence for Career and Technical Education \(CTE\) Endorsements in the Regents Blue Ribbon Panel on Assessments Content Areas](#) – discussion item

As always, I'll keep you posted!

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## Farewell to Our Pro

This June finds our resident “pro”, Terri Phillips officially retiring from the “Ask a Pro” column. Terri’s responses to NYSAFCSE members questions have served to motivate and inspire us since 2008 when she began the “Ask a Pro” column. On behalf of the NYSAFCSE membership I would like to thank Terri for her many years of service. Terri’s last column (below) is a heartfelt plea to her fellow “pros” to continue this very important part of our eNews Capsule. Please consider becoming the new “pro”.

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 NYSAFCSE by contacting Kim DeHart, [FACSmembership@nycap.rr.com](mailto:FACSmembership@nycap.rr.com)

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### Ask a Pro

We've all been there...just starting out as a FACS teacher; perhaps being the only one in your building or even district. You may have been assigned a math teacher as a mentor. They can help you learn your way around the school and show you where the best copy machine is or who to see for budget issues, but are not much help when it comes to managing overcrowded foods labs or developing human development activities or answering questions about FCCLA.

NYSAFCSE has stepped in to help with "Ask a Pro". We're the ones who best understand the logistics of a hands-on curriculum and how to make subject matter project based and we wanted to give our fellow professionals a place to go with questions.

I will be retiring from writing this column at the end of this school year and unfortunately, unless someone is willing to step up and offer to help our colleagues, the column will be retiring also.

***Wanted: A FACS teacher with experience and a willingness to help others. No travel or expense is involved, we just need someone (or a committee) who is willing to answer questions and share their expertise.***

Questions about the job?  
You can contact me, Terri Phillips directly at [phillip3@twcny.rr.com](mailto:phillip3@twcny.rr.com) or Connie Costly at [conniebv@hotmail.com](mailto:conniebv@hotmail.com).

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