



eNews Capsule

New York State Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Education
Vol. 10 Issue 1
September 2014



President's Message

Fall Greetings! Welcome Back!

In the June issue of the eNews Capsule, Connie Costley stated that her message was one of gratitude...gratitude for her profession, for the NYSAFCSE leaders who came before her, and the fact that she was able to make a career out of "something" that she truly enjoys doing. Connie also spoke about the idea that there is strength in numbers, our NYSAFCSE membership. We are indeed a community of highly skilled and eclectic Family and Consumer Sciences educators.

Connie and I hold similar thoughts about NYSAFCSE. We are particularly fortunate to have the support of Dawn Scagnelli, CTE/FACS Liaison at NYSED and Constance Spohn, Lead Specialist, CTE Technical Assistance Center. Along with the expertise of Dawn and Constance, I could not have imagined being without the support and advice of the dedicated individuals associated with our organization. Gratitude and appreciation...perfect words.

I wish to acknowledge and express immense appreciation to Connie Costley for her leadership over the last three years. She is a vocal worker bee who has earned the respect of our CTE peers. As a result of Connie's work, along with Barbara Mikler Crandon and Kim DeHart, CTE is well on its way to being part of a major change in how students are encouraged and supported in making choices about their educational and career pathways. These colleagues have worked tirelessly on behalf of our students and profession.

On July 16th, as part of an ongoing effort to support this work, I traveled to Utica to provide testimony to Representatives Catherine Nolan, Chairperson of the Education Committee, and Anthony Brindisi of the NYS Assembly. I am including the document I prepared for the testimony with this eNews edition. Please note that the document is not an original work of research but rather informs the reader of NYSAFCSE's position regarding the **Multiple Pathways to Graduation** movement using current facts and ideas from the New York State Education Department (NYSED) and the work of the New York State Association of Career and Technical Education (NYSACTE).

Along with the work intended to move CTE forward, the NYSAFCSE Board has created an extensive Strategic Plan highlighting the direction of our energy and resources over the next five years. The November eNews will highlight the details of the plan. An important area of interest is the need to recruit new Family and Consumer Sciences Educators. As a result, the **Say YES to FCS** campaign is underway. More details will unfold this fall.

Also, this fall, NYSAFCSE and the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) have partnered to deliver the Unified Conference titled "**FACS: The Passport to Healthy and Sustainable Families.**" October 17th and 18th in Albany at the Holiday Inn. The registration form was sent out via Monday Memo earlier this summer and is posted on the NYSAFCSE website. In honor of the **Say YES to FCS** campaign, a "fancy dress" gala is being held during the conference period. Tracy Henry, Vice President, and Sarah Weed, Recording Secretary, have been hard at work creating an exciting event for members to enjoy. I sincerely hope that you will join in on the fun! As we gather to celebrate and grow professionally at the Unified Conference, I also wish to encourage you to thank Jane More, Teresa Stefflick, Shirley

Ware, Connie Costley, and the AAFCS Leadership for organizing this exceptional event.

Speaking of growing professionally, over the last three years, I have had the privilege of participating in the:

- NYSED Content Advisory Panel
- Joint CTE Professional Organization Leadership Seminar(s)
- NYS Council of Educational Associations (NYSCEA)
- American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS)
- ACTE National Policy Seminar in Washington, DC
- NYS Association of Career and Technical Education (NYSACTE)
- NYS Assembly Hearings re: Multiple Pathways to Graduation

These experiences have allowed me to learn about the bigger picture in education and its relationship to the U.S. being able to offer work to its citizens and our ability to remain competitive in the global economy. I have learned that educators have a responsibility to move beyond our silos/content areas. We must figure out how to collaborate with other disciplines and businesses while having limited resources, yet, still get the job done.

With these thoughts in mind, quality and consistency in our CTE programs/courses continues to be a concern among the Regents, Commissioner King, and the NYSED CTE Team. CTE Program Approval continues to be recommended. Dawn Scagnelli and Constance Spohn offer support to those districts that wish to engage in this process.

Partnerships with business and other community members remain an incredible avenue for strengthening our influence on children and communities. As part of these community connections, FCCLA can help facilitate these opportunities and relationships. Karen Thomas, NYS Coordinator, is happy to support you in getting an FCCLA Chapter going in your building or district. (kthomas189@twcny.rr.com)

When engaged in meaningful partnerships, it becomes less necessary to advocate for our CTE Programs. Flourishing programs are an indication that CTE educators and programs/courses are providing valuable

knowledge, skills, attitudes and resources to students, businesses, and communities with real results.

As my role as NYS AFCSE President proceeds, please invite me to come to your area meetings so that I may understand what your experience is as a NYS FACS Educator. I will do my best to understand and advocate on your behalf should your area or school need that support. Let's have a mindset of patience, collaboration, creativity, and growth as we serve in our roles as educators and role models to children in NYS.

I close with a request for NYS AFCSE members to step forward to offer your time in a volunteer position on our board. At the Unified Conference, I will mention position titles that need filling. Please step forward to express interest. A willing spirit and a desire to educate yourself about the position is the first step to becoming a valued and necessary board member. Contact me should you be interested in joining our team.

In unity and with heart,

Christine Bunn, President NYS AFCSE
bunncc@gmail.com

Look what is happening in October ...

NYS AFCSE and AAFCS are very excited to present the 2014 Unified FCS Conference October 17-18, 2014: **"FACS: the Passport to Healthy and Sustainable Families."** The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn at Wolf Rd in Albany, NY and will feature two keynote speakers on Friday, a NEW Fancy Dress Gala following Friday's dinner keynote presentation, and Saturday lunch with an Awards presentation. The former director of Ulster County's Consumer Affairs Bureau, Alice Haberski will present during Friday's lunch, as well as a workshop on *"Our Changing Consumer World"*. Dr. Brian Wansink of Cornell University and Co-founder of the B.E.N. Center (Cornell Center for Behavioral Economics in Child Nutrition Programs) will discuss *"Mindless Eating"* and also present a workshop on *"Igniting the Smarter Lunchroom Movement"*.

Come to the Gala...

We are excited to include the new Fancy Dress Gala, themed “Say YES to FCS” and we hope that attendees will be eager to dress up to dance, have fun and network! The Fancy Dress Gala (Cash Bar!) is open to all members and their guests.

Workshop Presenters...

Have you taken a look at the Conference Informational Flyer and Registration forms (included in your NYSAFCSE Monday memo emails AND also found on the NYSAFCSE website?). If you have, we are thrilled to have 32 presenters sharing workshops with attendees at the conference on a variety of topics – there are almost too many to choose from!

Help people in need...

Also, please consider bringing a small bag of non-perishable food items for local families in the Albany area. The Conference Service Project’s “Chew, Chew” train will support the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York. Examples of what you can bring are found in the Conference Informational Flyer and registration forms.

Donate a basket...

Lastly, the Silent Auction could always use your contribution of baskets and gifts to support the scholarship fund designated for our new, upcoming FACS students. Taking care of our young professionals and nurturing our students are what we do so well, among many other things! Please consider the gift of your talents and resources to the Silent Auction or other aspects of the Conference (Community Service Project). You won’t regret your choice to help others in need.

Register Now – Not too late!

So you haven’t registered yet for the Unified FCS Conference? Not to worry! You can still register – with so many great workshops and excellent keynote speakers, it will be a conference to come home full of ideas and resources and feel re-charged for a new school year.



Adrain...nairdA...Adrian

Productive Struggle

My oldest grandchild started kindergarten this week. Physically, he was ready: gold Ninja backpack, new jeans, turtle sneakers. Socially he was ready. He’d been to summer kindercamp and become friends with several classmates. Emotionally, he was ready to separate from mom and board the red bus (“The bus isn’t red, Grammy. It’s a yellow bus with a red paper in the window.”). Intellectually/academically he was positioned for a struggle. Adrian Rogowski wasn’t able to write his name by himself though he practiced all summer (“I can draw all of the letters, Grammy.”). He had the letters, but not the order. He was worried; Grammy assured him that his teacher would help him get it right.

We start another school year with students who, like Adrian, will face academic challenges in our classrooms. As teachers, it is our job to steer these challenges toward “productive struggle”. According to Hans Meeder, leader of the National Center for College and Career Transitions (NC3T at www.NC3T.com), productive struggle occurs when students learn from working hard at something, not necessarily getting it all at once, and becoming comfortable with the feeling of being uncomfortable. Meeder asserts that students’ best efforts occur when they work through something that is not easy, but persevere to make it better and better until it works. Current education literature suggests that helping students work through their built-in academic challenges is only half of the job. The other half is promoting academic rigor by planning learning experiences that intentionally facilitate productive struggle.

Robyn Jackson, secondary teacher and administrator and coauthor of *How to Support Struggling Students* (available from the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development at www.ascd.org) says, "One of the key signs of rigor is independent thinking and learning." She suggests that teachers are often too quick to intervene when students appear to struggle with classwork. She recommends that teachers watch for clues that will help them distinguish "destructive struggle" from "productive struggle":

- Destructive Struggle requires intervention. It leads to frustration; makes learning goals feel out of reach; leaves students feeling abandoned; and creates a sense of inadequacy.
- Productive Struggle requires patience and time. It leads to understanding; makes learning goals feel attainable and worthwhile; leads to student empowerment; and creates a sense of hope.

Ideally, learning experiences are intentionally developed to foster productive struggle. Such experiences allow students to grapple with concepts, develop solutions to problems, and eventually view learning as an active endeavor. In productive struggle classrooms, teachers help students develop strategies to work through learning difficulties. They steer students with suggestion rather than direction. In 2014-15, we can aspire to create FCS classrooms that encourage our students to embrace struggle as a sign of meaningful learning.

I hope Mrs. Elder will do the same for A-D-R-I-A-N.

Regents Update

The Board of Regents meets on September 15-16, 2014. At this time, there are no CTE items scheduled. You can view the items at <http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/>. As always, I will keep you posted.

Dawn B. Scagnelli
CTE FACS Associate
NYS
dscagnel@mail.nysed.gov
<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/cte/facse/>

Professional Development

Professional development (PD) has always been at the heart of what NYS AFCSE does. It has historically been a priority and that is why significant portion of our membership dues are allocated to bringing relevant and current information to where it can make the greatest difference, to the individual FACS teachers across the state. This is accomplished by bringing together professional development leaders from each of the state areas, three times a year, to receive training. These designated leaders then serve as turnkey trainers and disseminate the information back to you, the members in your local areas. Your membership dues provide the opportunity for you to reap the benefits of these trainings in your local area from your PD leaders. Take the opportunity to receive information and training at your local area meetings.

This year, prior to the fall conference, PD leaders will have the unique opportunity to attend a joint meeting with Area Coordinators from their areas and across the state, just prior to the start of the conference on Friday, October 17th. They will then attend the conference workshops along with members and bring back new information and training to the local area meetings. If your area does not currently have a designated professional development representative, consider serving in that role. Ask your area coordinator or contact Heidi Hobbs or Sheryl Garofano, PD Leadership Co-Chairs, about the opportunity to do so.

Some of the 2013-2014 training PD Leaders participated in include the following:

- Food Allergies, Kathleen McAllister, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Albany County
- Career Cruising, webinar with Chris Allinson, Educational Sales Consultant; www.carercruising.com
- Integrating FCCLA into your classroom, Karen Thomas and Liz Kuhl, advisors
- Career Readiness Model & Rigor & Relevance Model, Dick Jones, Senior consultant, Successful Practices Network
- Tech Up Your Teaching & iPads in the Classroom: It's just a Tap and Swipe Away, Andrea Mosensen, Queens College, CUNY
- Becoming Better Acquainted with the CTE Technical Assistance Center (CTE TAC) website, Connie Spohn, CTE TAC Center

- Updating Foods Labs to Better Match Industry Standards, Terminology and Safety/Sanitation Considerations, Christina Rode, FACS teacher, Baker High School, Baldwinsville, NY
- Creating School-Business Advisory Boards & The Role FACS could play in the new CDOS Commencement Credential, Susan Gubing, CareerSmarts
- How to Build Better Tests and Data Collection, Donna Marie Norton, Executive Director for Data and Accountability, N. Syracuse Central School District

Check with your area PD leaders for information related to any of these topics. We look forward to seeing all of you at New York State Unified Family and Consumer Sciences Conference, 2014 FACS: The Passport to Healthy and Sustainable Families.

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



Christina Rode, FACS Teacher,
Baker High School
Baldwinsville Central Schools

FAMILY AND
CONSUMER SCIENCES
SKILLS FOR LIFE

