



eNews Capsule

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

Dear Colleagues,

With each New Year there is opportunity to celebrate...rest...reflect and to move toward those things that call to ones' heart and mind. Our profession, as Family and Consumer Sciences Educators calls us to honor self, family, work and community by harnessing unique gifts every human being possesses and then to develop those gifts in an effort to help make families and communities stronger. This is our calling.

Currently there is a necessary push to focus on the area of careers in educational institutions due to the need for skilled workers in the new economy. This push has created tension and competition for resources that enable this preparation to occur. NYSAFCSE's board members are cognizant of the fact that programs and courses are struggling to remain a part of some educational communities in our state due to this competition for resources.

There is another influential reason that impacts Family and Consumer Sciences program viability. **Quality and Consistency** in FCS and CTE programs in general varies to such a degree that confidence is at times affected among policy makers at the state level as well as at the district and building level. Additionally some decision makers do not understand the connection of FCS to CTE unless Culinary Arts or Fashion Design is an occupational outcome. This notion reflects a limited understanding but nonetheless remains the basis for some current decision making.

Just ten short years ago FCS programming was considered a somewhat irrelevant aspect of student education despite the fact that educators teach skills for life. Due to the efforts of many dedicated professionals FCS has gained momentum and respect in our state as a meaningful part of Career and Technical Education. NYSAFCSE has worked intensely to ensure that the philosophy that drives FCS education and programming remains a relevant and integral part of education in New York State and beyond.

As we begin the New Year the quote "If you want to achieve success in any field, become like Einstein. Maximize your brains ability to adapt." This statement really targets what we as a profession may be up against, that is our brain's ability to adapt to new ways of thinking, integrating, and utilizing FCS in ways that can ultimately and powerfully create positive and synergistic change in our world.

"IF YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS IN ANY FIELD, BECOME LIKE EINSTEIN. MAXIMIZE YOUR BRAIN'S ABILITY TO ADAPT."



- DEEPAK CHOPRA AND RUDOLPH TANZI
FROM THE BOOK SUPER BRAIN

This year I would like all Family and Consumer Sciences colleagues to take on a necessary challenge. That is to address **quality and consistency** in our coursework and programs across New York State. I sincerely believe that Family and Consumer Sciences Educators have the ability to address this need as we prepare students to enter into an innovative and competitive workforce as well as the new economy. Clearly we also have a professional responsibility to strengthen the Family and Consumer Sciences profession for the long-term.

To address these areas of concern NYS AFCSE will enlist the help of colleagues with different perspectives and experiences to:

- Identify and build on programming and educator strengths
- Self-evaluate and describe where gaps exist in actual practice
- Use a growth mindset...with what Dawn Scagnelli describes as a “continuous improvement” model
- Invite and provide opportunities for FCS colleagues to collaborate with other FCS educators to strengthen individual courses, programs and districts
- Continue to promote CTE Program Approval
- Develop printed tool(s) to track what is learned and changed as a result of our efforts
- Better publicize our growth and impact on individuals and communities.

While the above statements are loosely constructed they are a beginning. We will continue to work with Dawn Scagnelli, NYSED, Constance Spohn and CTE TAC to guide our efforts in the areas of quality and consistency in FCS and to assist in closing gaps where needed.

This is an exciting opportunity to take a look at ourselves and to grow mindsets that will propel us to adapt and then achieve excellence in programming, student success and the Family and Consumer Sciences profession!!!

In solidarity and with respect,

Christine Bunn

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- 1) Continue to follow the **Multiple Pathways to Graduation** proposal via the Board of Regents meeting this month. Please write or email a Regent in your area to thank them for any progress made on behalf of CTE.
- 2) Please make every effort to recognize an outstanding colleague by nominating them for a **NYS AFCSE award**. Submissions are due by April 1, 2015.
- 3) Remember that **CTE Program Approval** is the best way to ensure that FCS programs can be supported in your school district.

4) Consider providing a presentation or experience at the Best/Next Practices Conference in Fall 2015. Information will follow.

Correction:

A brief note is necessary regarding the December eNewsCapsule about Charles Moody. His sister-in-law is the niece, not daughter, of Ellen Swallow Richards. Please excuse the error.

NYSED Update

Board of Regents

The Board of Regents will meet on January 12-13, 2015 (just as you are receiving this publication☺) and vote on final regulatory language changes to CR 100.2 and 100.5 as they relate to “Pathways to Graduation.” At this time, it appears that the Regents will approve changes that will:

- establish pathways, which can be offered in addition to the academic pathway currently required of all students earning a diploma, specifically: the Humanities, STEM, Biliteracy, career and technical education (CTE), and the Arts
- maintain requirements that students must earn 22 credits in order to graduate
- continue requirements that the 22 credits be distributed as they are currently (i.e., 4 credits English and social studies, 3 credits science and math, and so on)
- provide a “4+1 option” in which students may substitute one of the currently required social studies regents exams, either Global Studies or US History, with a pathway exam. A career and technical education technical assessment, **approved by the Commissioner** following **successful completion of a CTE approved program**, is an example of a substitution.

Even if program approval is not completed, moving programs in the direction of approval is a proactive step toward being able to offer a CTE graduation pathway for students.

Commissioner’s Announcement

Commissioner King has accepted an appointment with the US Department of Education. The article below provides

information about the Board's plan for securing his replacement.

NYS Education Commissioner Says Goodbyes to Board of Regents,

Search for Replacement Underway

December 16, 2014

ALBANY, N.Y. -- Commissioner John King said his goodbyes to the Board of Regents Monday. He acknowledged many of the people he's worked with over the last three years at the State Education Department. Now, it's on to the U.S. Department of Education, and that department's second highest ranking position.

Even before he addressed the Board of Regents for one of the final times, the search for Commissioner King's replacement was well underway.

"We named a seven person search team from our board. We will be hiring a search firm," said Regents Chancellor Meryll Tisch. Regents Vice Chancellor Anthony Bottar will head the search.

"Raising student achievement, closing the performance gap, helping students with special needs; Those are our focuses, been our focus for a long time, and we'll continue to focus on that as we search for our new commissioner," said Bottar.

Commissioner King faced tough criticism for the roll out of the Common Core learning standards and teacher evaluations. The state's largest teacher's union, NYSUT, also voted 'no confidence' against him and called for his resignation.

Some Regents members agree, it was a tough time, but he'll be hard to replace. "He did a very good job in a very difficult time. Finding someone of his caliber will be hard. This is a great state and I'm very confident we will attract first rate candidates," said Bottar.

While the nationwide search is going on, the board said there's a leadership team in place to bridge the gap.

"I will work to make sure that we ensure a smooth tradition to the best of our ability and a great new leader," said Tisch.

"I'm not someone who thinks that you lay out a lot of narrow categories in advance. Let's see who's available. It's one of the great leadership jobs in the country," said James Tallon, Jr., from the Regents Judicial District VI.

Members say there should be a short list of candidates within a few months, but they're not rushing anything. They'll vote on who the next commissioner will be, when the time is right.

- See more at:

<http://centralny.twcnews.com/content/news/793006/nys-education-commissioner-says-goodbyes-to-board-of-regents--search-for-replacement-underway/#sthash.FbwTcT4p.dpuf>

Resources

- NYSED Web resources
 - www.p12.nysed.gov/cte/facse/
 - www.p12.nysed.gov/cte/
 - List of approved programs with school contact information
 - Implementation guide
 - Info on technical endorsement
- NYS Career and technical Education Technical Assistance Center (CTETAC)
 - www.nyctecenter.org

I look forward to working with you. Please call me or email me at my **new email** address; I am happy to assist you.

Dawn B. Scagnelli
CTE FCS Associate
NYSED

Dawn.Scagnelli@nysed.gov
<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/cte/facse/>

Ask A Pro

Dear Jessica,

I've been hearing so much about the "multiple pathways to graduation" and recently saw a list of CTE exams that NYSED has approved as 'equally rigorous' to a Regents exam. Very few of them (2!) are in Family & Consumer Science content areas. What should we do about this? How can we ensure that Family & Consumer Science students have a meaningful pathway to college and career now that the multiple pathways initiative is finally happening? -Kathy

Dear Kathy,

Good news and bad news.

Let's start with the good news: The list of exams you saw is a *beginning* list acted upon by the Blue Ribbon Committee headed by Cornell University last year. NYSED does intend to reconvene the Committee to review more exams. If you have an exam you would like to have vetted for determination as equally rigorous to a Regents exam, please make the request to the SED CTE Team.

The bad news is that the beginning list you saw indicates a problem in our field as well as most others in CTE. These exams only represent 157 of over 1000 approved programs and approximately 1000 students. As you said, only two of the 13 approved exams are in a FACS content area. Of course, not many FACS programs have submitted for program approval making approved exams an irrelevant issue. A CTE program has to be approved by NYSED in order for these technical exams to be utilized.

Our Technology Education colleagues have six approved exams. Business has two and art/tech (specifically graphic design) has two. Also note that agriculture and emerging CTE fields seem to have no approved assessments. How do these fields plan to provide for the students interested in those careers?

It might not be of any surprise that BOTH approved FACS related exams are in Foods & Nutrition. The first of ours is the Pro Start National Certificate of Achievement (administered by the National Restaurant Association's Education Foundation) and the second is the Hospitality Management – Food and Beverage exam (administered by NOCTI).

Personally, I think we need to make it a priority to get exams approved in Human Development. This should be a priority because one of the fastest growing career fields in the United States is human services (mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists and personal care aides). We should capitalize on the fact that these jobs are expected to remain in high demand well past the year 2020.

The point I am trying to make is that we need to rebrand ourselves as more than Food & Nutrition as our sole content area and we need to advocate for other content area exams to be added to the list of approved exams. Since a CTE Pathway will have an approved CTE program as its foundation, it is important to develop approved programs in other areas of FACS as an initial step. The technical assessments are an integral part of an approved program.

If we want FACS students to have a meaningful pathway other than one in food service/ culinary arts we need to speak up about what else we do in our classrooms. We need to focus our curriculum on where the jobs are *today* and consult business and industry about their needs. Think about how you can change your middle level classroom to better engage students in additional FACS content areas, remain actively engaged in advocating at the State level and, of course, reach out to Dawn Scagnelli at NYSED (Dawn.Scagnelli@nysed.gov) and collaborate with CTE colleagues to develop cross curricular pathways – FACS/Business, FACS/AG, FACS/Technology.

Thanks for the question!

Jessica

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Ask a Pro appears monthly. Feel free to ask for advice or information or to make suggestions about column topics and content by emailing me, Jessica Williams at jrw553@gmail.com. Input from our membership is critical in maintaining the relevance of this column. Please participate by sending at least one question during this school year. If you have a need an immediate response, just ask and I will respond asap.

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