



Get the FACS

New York State Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Education
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Presidents Message:

One thing I love about being a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher is the mid-year opportunity for a fresh start. In my full year classes, the change of semester offers a new beginning – new groups, new seating, new topics. Although I may have many of the same students from one semester to the next, half year courses offer a new mix of students and new subject matter.

Those of you who teach middle school are apt to experience this opportunity for change and renewed energy even more often.

As we take advantage of this opportunity for change, I invite each of you to choose some suggestions from my checklist of fresh start strategies.

- ✓ Visit www.engageny.org and look at the chart of Approved Teacher Practice Rubrics for New York State. Many of your school districts are already beginning to work with one of these. If not, you might look at the NYSUT teacher rubric and start some self-evaluation of the lessons you are preparing, the materials you are using and the approach you are taking.
- ✓ Complete one new marketing activity by March 1st – send an article with a photo to the local paper or the school's website to feature FACS
- ✓ Buy \$10 worth of new “school supplies” at a local dollar store to add to your classroom – hand lotion, pens or pencils, a pencil holder, file folders, glue sticks, or anything that could be used creatively. (Last year I started duct-taping

artificial flowers to the end of pens and pencils that students use if they are unprepared for class – I haven't lost one yet! I use a roll of toilet paper as a review tool – students pull off the quantity they want, and then tell something about the lesson for each square taken).

- ✓ Focus on FACS careers in February for CTE month. Identify a career at the beginning of the week and have students bring in “interesting facts about the FACS career” by the end of the week for bonus points or coupons.
- ✓ Do a random act of kindness for one of your colleagues – you will both feel better for it.
- ✓ Make a list of 5 things that you did well in the fall semester and be proud of it.
- ✓ Attend the next NYS AFCSE meeting in your area.
- ✓ Clean off your desk!
- ✓ Invite a school counselor, administrator or school board member into your classroom to participate with your students in a lesson or activity.
- ✓ Send a FACS colleague in a neighboring district an e-mail of thanks, encouragement or share an idea that has worked for you in the classroom.
- ✓ Try a new warm-up or closure activity with your classes.
- ✓ Start a new hobby, read a book for pleasure, write a real letter to a loved one and mail it, to refresh or challenge yourself.

Make 2012 a positive and memorable year in your career.

Barb Mikler-Crandon, NYS AFCSE President
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Advocacy Reason? It's Budget Season

I can tell that school districts are working on their 2012-13 budgets because in the past two weeks I have received several calls and emails from administrators, teachers, and school counselors. Some ask whether there have been any changes to the secondary requirements; some ask whether I can evaluate a new plan their district is considering; some ask what I can do to save a program. The Commissioner has even received a letter from a middle-school student (forwarded to my desk for response) who asserts three financial reasons for making Home and Career Skills optional. So, this is the month we step away from the Regents reform topics and revisit the topic of advocacy. Although we are year-round advocates for our students and Family and Consumer Sciences programs, "budget season" makes our advocacy efforts even more important.

Budget season corresponds to national CTE Month. During CTE Month, CTE programs and CTSOs (including FCCLA) across the country host a variety of events showcasing their programs and students' successes to their communities, policymakers and business leaders. Why not use CTE Month activities as the springboard for your CTE FACS advocacy initiatives? The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) has suggested CTE Month actions you might try in your school:



- Host a school tour with your local media
- Schedule a meeting with your local elected officials (including school board members) to discuss the importance of CTE FACS and the critical need for school funding
- Share the 2012 CTE Month logo (above), alongside our FACS logo, on assignments

and classroom materials that you use during CTE month

- Have students write an op-ed piece to your local publication (including your school website) explaining CTE Month and the importance of FACS in your community
- Participate in [Social Media Advocacy Day](#) on Thursday, February 23rd. Share tweets and statuses that promote CTE FACS
- Organize a Job Shadow Day at a local business

For more ideas, you may wish to visit the ACTE CTE Month web page at <http://www.acteonline.org/ctemonth.aspx> to view past CTE Month events and download materials that could assist you in outreach and advocacy during February.

Finally, I suggest that you *always* be ready to tell *everyone* how and why FACS programs offer students opportunities that are not available in any other discipline. I always start with:

Family and Consumer Sciences programs offer students unique opportunities to develop human literacy skills that lead to quality of life for individuals and families. Our work focuses on helping students become caring individuals who are able to reach their own potentials while also helping others reach theirs. This focus on self-in-relation to-others is unique, important, and special.

Then add a few specific examples of how our FACS classroom work is tied to the big picture (especially the "big picture" priority of the listener).

It is imperative that we garner support for FACS programs to keep them available for our students.

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TRIBUTE TO DONNA DONALDSON

NYS AFCSE pays tribute to the memory of Donna Donaldson and her contributions to the association, to NYS FCCLA and to the world. Donna died suddenly and unexpectedly on Thursday, January 19, 2012 at the age of 52.

Donna had been a member of NYS AFCSE throughout her teaching career, and also served our association by wearing many hats. She served at her local area in the past as the professional development representative as well as Hudson Valley Northwest area coordinator.



Never one to “just belong”, Donna brought her many talents to the state level. She served as the state FCCLA liaison on our NYS AFCSE board. She was currently in her third year as state co-chairperson for Professional Development, which involved the planning and delivery of our professional development to members from across the state three times a year in Albany.

Donna also played an integral part in leading the NYS AFCSE professional development offered in conjunction with the FCCLA leadership training each summer. As an example of Donna’s outstanding leadership, last summer she attended an Ulster County BOCES training about the NYS Common Core State Standards one week and then amazingly changed the planned events for the summer PD event so that she could share this very new information by turnkey training all of us the following week! Those of us who attended that event started the 2011-12 school year steps ahead of others in our own school districts because of Donna’s foresight and dedication. She also went on to share this new information with

many of us this past fall at several NYS AFCSE regional conferences. That is the person Donna was – taking good and making it better and best. Not only was she the Professional Development Co-Chair, but Donna was also our current Web Mistress; her expertise with technology in this capacity and in many other ways brought our association forward in recent years. Donna was honored as the NYS AFCSE State Teacher of the Year in 2003.

While Family and Consumer Science as a profession and NYS AFCSE as an organization were dear to her, her heart truly lay with youth leadership and FCCLA. An advisor to her students at Saugerties Central School for 10 years, Donna also had state officers in 2005 and 2006. Donna attended several district meetings and state conferences over the years as well as the national FCCLA meetings in Nashville in 2006 and 2009, and Anaheim in 2007. She was the assistant FCCLA State Officer Trainer in 2006-2007, received the Master Advisor Award in 2009 and then served as the FCCLA State Officer Trainer in 2009-2010. Donna’s Saugerties Chapter collected many pounds of pop tops for the Ronald McDonald House in Syracuse; she did several workshops on Internet Safety for members and advisors. Donna was a glowing light for the organization and will continue to influence FCCLA in many ways because of this involvement.

Donna graduated with an Associate in Arts Degree and the Citizenship Award from SUNY Cobleskill in 1995 and Bachelor Degree in Home Economics Education from SUNY Oneonta in 1998, and then later continued her studies at Sage College earning a Masters Degree in Education. She was beginning to continue her education to receive a Doctorate Degree in School Administration.

Donna taught Family and Consumer Sciences, Food Science and Culinary Science at Saugerties High School. She was involved with many other organizations including: Anti-Bullying Organization of Saugerties High School, Mentor Program for new teachers, Girl Scouts Association, National Honor Society in Family

and Consumer Sciences, Phi Upsilon Omicron (chapter Beta Omicron), and many others. One of the huge blessings that she was very proud of and excited to receive was the Apostolic Blessing from his holiness the late Pope John Paul II for the Jubilee Year of 2000. She also received the Certificate of Appreciation from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany in April 2000. Donna Donaldson was also in charge of the Cantata of the St. Mary's of the Snow Church for the past 4 years.

It was our great honor to attend her services and meet her dear husband, Dale Sr.; her daughter, Summer Donaldson of Saugerties; her four sons, Joseph of Thonotosassa, FL, Dale II of Burlington, VT and Dario and Isaiah of Providence, RI; and her two granddaughters, Dakota and Cheyenne Donaldson. Our deepest sympathy goes out to them.

Most evident at Donna's services was her open heart and servant hood to every person she came in contact with. Donna's passion and phenomenal work ethic as a FACS professional was admired and respected by all who had the privilege to know and work with her. She truly "did what she loved, and loved what she did". More importantly, Donna was an amazing person who always made others a priority— whether it be family, friends, colleagues, students or just an acquaintance. She will be greatly missed.

Memorial contributions may be sent to "Treasurer, NYS AFCSE" c/o Marilyn Mandigo, 3065 County Road 2, Pulaski, NY 13142; please note "in memory of Donna Donaldson" in the memo line. Contributions will be used for youth leadership scholarships through FCCLA.

Barb Mikler-Crandon, President and Connie Costley, President-Elect

WEBMASTER NEEDED

NYS AFCSE has an urgent and immediate need for a webmaster!

The current job description for this position on the NYS AFCSE board includes the following responsibilities:

1. Maintain the association's website (www.nysafcse.org)
2. Establish and maintain a contract with a web server for the website.
3. Add new information to the website in a timely manner.
4. Work with the board members to obtain up-to-date information for posting on the site.

If you are a NYS AFCSE member who is technology savvy please consider serving our association in this manner. Or if you know of a member who is technology savvy that should be considered for this position, please let us know.

Contact President-Elect Connie Costley with your interest or suggestion at conniebv@hotmail.com by February 29, 2012 (it's a leap year so we're giving you an extra day!)

Ask a Pro

Dear Pro: As a Child Studies teacher, how might I handle the teen pregnancy unit if I suspect that one of my high school students is pregnant? So much of the teen pregnancy unit focuses on the consequences and negative aspects of pregnancy and teen parenting. How can this be handled delicately to avoid offending or making my student feel bad about herself or her baby?

Because our courses deal with real-life issues, this is something we must always be aware of. Besides pregnant teens, we very well might have students who are sexually active, in unhealthy dating relationships, abusing drugs or alcohol...and the list goes on and on.

We do need to discuss the consequences and negative aspects of these various situations as it may help prevent others from making poor choices. However, we need to teach the facts and answer questions honestly and without any overtone of judgment. It is also critical to highlight various resources available to help people in these situations. Teens may be unaware of the importance of prenatal care or even what to expect or how to get help. Encourage students to talk privately to a trusted adult about any questions, concerns or fears they have with respect to themselves or someone else.

Studies have shown that students with long term goals are less likely to get pregnant or get involved in risky situations so it's important to have them actually write down their long term goals; where they see themselves in 5, 10, or 20 years. What is needed to achieve those goals? How would those goals be impacted if they (or their girlfriend) became pregnant? Discuss ways that plans can be modified. It is important for teens in crisis situations not to give in to the "I might as well give up because my life is over" mentality and remain positive realizing that they have many options for creating a bright future.

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

Get the FACS (eNews) is edited by Ann Coleman and sent monthly to our paid membership. If you know of a teacher who could benefit from our organization ask him or her to visit www.NYSFACSE.org for membership details.
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