



Get the FACS

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

A new school year is about to get underway and it is always a time of great anticipation and excitement. Whether you will be teaching Family and Consumer Science for the first time, or perhaps you are starting your 26th year (like me!) or you are somewhere in-between or beyond, it is a time to have a fresh start in the classroom as well as in our wonderful organization. Start the year out with a smile on your face and...

- ☺ Be sure you are current with your NYS AFCSE membership dues; many of you have a fall date of membership.
- ☺ Be sure that you have registered for the Best Practices Conference in Kingston, NY on October 22-23, 2010; there are very few spots left.
- ☺ Take advantage of the many well-planned professional development events being planned for the year at the local levels across the state. Be sure to make involvement in your local area a priority this year; the networking support you will be a part of is worth every penny of your dues.
- ☺ Be sure to include at least one FCCLA activity in each of your classes this year and call it that. It is a wonderful way to expose your students to an organization and to promote involvement; there are many wonderful programs that will help your students to have even richer hands-on learning. Take a look at the many national programs (go to www.fcclainc.org) and pick something that will enhance a unit that you are doing. You can click on "PROGRAMS" at the top of the homepage and it will take you to a listing of all the national programs. Open any one of them and you can then "click here to integrate FCCLA into your classroom by downloading lesson plans and activities." There are many great, ready-to-go lessons for you to access. *For example, within the Power of One program you will find all the steps and activities for a two week lesson called Career Investigation Project.*

- ☺ Consider starting an FCCLA chapter this year if your school does not have one. If you're like me and your time is stretched to the limit, start small. I'll let you know how I'm doing at this myself in next month's e-news.
- ☺ Be sure to have the highest quality projects and activities planned for your students and then proudly publicize what you are doing in your classroom! At least once a month, send a photo or short article to the local weekly pennysaver or shopping guide about something going on in your program. Everyone gets it and it may be the only newspaper that goes to your students' homes. This will be something that your students will be able to proudly share with their families.
- ☺ Try to do at least one act of kindness each day – it will bring you such joy! Compliment a student, praise a colleague, let someone have a break in traffic, e-mail a FACS colleague with a note of thanks. There are so many opportunities to bring a bit of sunshine into the lives of others. Let your light shine in your classroom, your school, your community, and your home.
- ☺ And finally, for those of you who are retired.... I would ask that you encourage those still in the classroom in accomplishing all of the above. Be sure that you have taken advantage of the option of NYS AFCSE lifetime membership. And enjoy your morning refreshment on the first day of school as you watch a school bus drive by your home!!

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Message from SED Liaison-Dawn Scagnelli

On August 24, 2010, the United States Education Department announced that New York State was a winner in the federal Race to the Top (RTTT) competition and awarded \$696,646,000. The Board of Regents views the Race to the Top money as the vehicle for implementing education reform in New York.

The initiatives described in the winning application are intended to work together to create a systemic approach to improving teaching and learning. This system consists of well-designed learning standards and aligned curricula that are measured by meaningful, performance-based assessments. The core instruction (standards, curricula and assessments) must be delivered by well-prepared teachers and school leaders who have received relevant professional development based on student growth data. The analysis of these data will then inform improvements in instruction that will result in the academic progress of students. The goal is for all students to be college and career ready.

The extensive RTTT application can be viewed at <http://usny.nysed.gov/rttt/>; you may wish to begin with the executive summary if you haven't had a chance to become familiar with the application as yet. Part B of the application is most likely where FACS educators, as well as the rest of the CTE field, will find roles in this education reform.

For more information on CTE in New York State, please visit the NYSED CTE web pages at <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/cte/>

BACK TO SCHOOL (submitted by Linda Traynor)

August 26, 2010 | Amy Scattergood

Go back, through a universe of chalk dust and repeating bells, to a classroom outfitted with a line of squat stoves, a long table stacked with dry goods, a row of teenage girls mixing dough in dented bowls, writing down the equation of a good pie in notebooks tracked by ink and flour. It was 1980, and my freshman high school class was taking home economics, learning how to make a pot of stew, set a proper dinner table, bake and frost a cake, as the last months of the Carter administration clicked down.

But not long after that, my school and so many others discontinued the classes. And when I talked to my former home ec teacher recently, her raspy 75-year-old voice conflating the three decades since she taught me how to make soup, she wondered aloud where home economics had gone. It's a common question.

But home ec has not disappeared; it's changed, evolving into classes focusing on child development, nutrition, family health, food service and hospitality.

It hasn't been lost as much as translated. In 1994, the name of the course in most of the country was officially changed from Home Economics to Family and Consumer Sciences, or FCS, in an effort to dispel the impression that home ec was about teaching girls how to be housewives.

The number of secondary school students who take FCS classes has not substantially changed since the late 1950s, according to a 2004 national survey conducted by the National Coalition for Family and Consumer Sciences Education.

More than 5 million students were enrolled in secondary FCS education programs in the 2002-03 academic year, the study found, or about 25% of all students, almost the same percentage cited in a 1959 Department of Health, Education and Welfare study. In fact, in California, home ec is still called home ec; it's the only state in the nation that has kept the name. But whereas in the '60s and '70s, classes were composed entirely of girls and the curriculum focused on traditional homemaking, today they've evolved, says Patricia Scott, home economics teacher expert for the Los Angeles Unified School District, herself a longtime home ec teacher. "The name is still home economics; it's still around. But they're not the traditional programs; they're more specialized."

Please be sure to open/read/and copy the FCCLA Ultimate E-news and present it to your students as a monthly letter for them. The students will see how others throughout the state are utilizing FCCLA as a way to build leadership skills, make friends, and provide community service. This year the news letter is written by the student officers. The list of National Star Event winners is also listed. This is a great reading activity which may even spark your students to want to do more for others as well as your department!

Have a wonderful school year! And to all of the recent retirees'—enjoy your first week of retirement!

Do not forget to register for the October best practice Professional Development....log on to the www.NYSFACSE.org website for more information



Get the FACS is sent monthly to our paid membership. If you know of a teacher who could benefit from our organization ask them to visit www.NYSFACSE.org for membership details.
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