President Message

We began a three year strategic direction for AAFCS called IMAGINE in 2016 which provided a desired destination for AAFCS and the Field of Family and Consumer Sciences. The destination identified our desired results guided by strategic priorities and goals all based on our core values and missions to include:

Strategic Priorities

- Advocacy and Collaboration: to enhance the visibility and impact of Family and Consumer Sciences.
- Education and Recognition: to promote excellence in individuals, programs, and institutions
- Research and Innovation: to validate, guide, and advance the Family and Consumer Sciences Body and Knowledge

Strategic Initiatives:

- FCS Day
- Say Yes to FCS

This year we will continue the three year timeline with the 2017 focus Financial & Resource Well-being. Our affiliate will follow the 107th Annual AAFCS Conference & Expo’s theme “Financial Fitness, Trends, Innovations & Impacts” held June 25-28, 2017 in Dallas Texas. Plan to join us in Richmond Thursday evening March 22nd and Friday March 23rd, 2018 for the VAFCS/VEAFCS Annual Conference as we become FCSfit with Financial Fitness. Let us continue to support all FCS Initiatives. Visit our websites for information on the initiatives and mini-grants which are available to support Dine-in Day on December 3rd and others. I invite you to serve on a committee, be a presenter, sponsor a student or find other ways to support our Family and Consumer Programs.

Best Wishes,
Sylvia W. Mullen, CFCS-HNFS, NBCT

Secondary Story Headline
Leadership Academy Recap by Julie Temple

Julie Temple, Associate Professor of Design at Radford University, attended the AAFCS Leadership Academy during the 2017 national conference in Dallas. Prior to the workshop, academy members read three books on leadership, took two online personal leadership style surveys, worked in study guides, and wrote proposals for national and affiliate leadership projects. The workshop itself lasted two days and was filled with back-to-back activities and helpful presentations. Each member left the workshop with an Outreach team for a project at the national level, an affiliate project, and a leadership mentor.

“I found the experience very rewarding! I was able to get to know many of the current leadership team members on a personal level and it has given me a deeper appreciation of the organization.”

The Leadership Academy is offered every other year with the third cohort scheduled for 2019. It is designed for members to gain knowledge and leadership skills, develop a support network, and assume leadership roles in AAFCS and affiliates.
Thank yous received

One from Children’s Nutrition Program of Haiti for the $350 donation. We need to keep them in our thought as the next hurricane approaches. Other one was from the Roses and Wings Girls Mentoring Program that received one of the grants. It included their program for the Graduation event that our grant helped to fund.

VAFCS provided a $500 mini grant to help the wonderful efforts of "Say Yes to FCS" last spring. Virginia college and university FCS and related programs were invited to exhibit at the Virginia FCCLA State Leadership & Recognition Conference on April 7, 2017. Eight higher education institutions were represented: Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, Regent University, Radford University, Norfolk State University, Bridgewater College, Johnson & Wales University, and George Mason University. Prizes were awarded to students who visited 4+ college presenters. Student participants completed interest cards—higher ed representatives were sent contact information for the students who indicated an interest in their university program to allow for follow-up. An exciting 704 FCCLA student members in middle and high school participated. 151 students visited with 4 or more colleges during the conference.

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