Happy New Year! We made it to 2023!
This has been no small feat. A global pandemic, rising prices and falling stocks, social shifts, labor shortages, personal challenges, job changes, and personal relationship and family changes. Many moved away from remote work, and we experienced an in-person WAFCS conference in the fall. The most common feedback from participants was “it was so good to be back together!” Why? We are a people—focused profession.

As your incoming WAFCS President, I am feeling grateful, energized, and hopeful. There are many things that contribute to my optimism including:

- A new WAFCS Executive Board that includes four new members. Half of our board members are young professionals who bring new ideas and insights. Half of our board members are experienced leaders with a long institutional history to share.
- We look forward to returning to Vancouver, WA again for our October annual conference. Our bonds and working relationship with WA-FACSE are intentional and strong. We are all FCS!
- Member perks include new Easy-Apply Grants (see graphic on page 5 and our website.) FREE clock hours which are available to all members (see graphic on page 5 and our website.)

As 2023 begins, I hope that you consider increasing your involvement with WAFCS in 2023. Share your expertise by proposing a fall conference workshop. Contribute your ideas to make this a meaningful professional guild. Reacquaint yourself with all that the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) has to offer. Put the WAFCS Fall conference on your calendar. Send me a message with your updates, suggestions, and thoughts. We need your help to make WAFCS strong.

May 2023 bring you times of love, laughter, and goodwill toward others.

Warmly,

Sharleen
Introducing the 2023 Executive Board

We are excited to have several new members on the Board! Each member was asked to submit a brief bio and a picture.

Sharleen Kato, President
Dr. Sharleen Kato, CFCS-HDFS, is Emerita Professor of Human Development and Family Studies and FCS Secondary Education at Seattle Pacific University (SPU) where she served as the Director of FCS and as the Senior International Officer. Sharleen is the author of many journal articles, book chapters, and textbooks for Goodheart-Willcox publishers including the post-secondary Foundations of FCS: Careers Serving Individuals, Families, and Communities, secondary texts Teaching, Lifespan Development, Principles of Human Services, and the newly published post-secondary text Child and Youth Development. She has travelled to over 60 countries and has led student groups to the Philippines to serve in orphanages, feeding programs, and schools. She helps lead church groups visiting Israel and Jordan. She is passionate about serving in her church and community. She is a married mother of adult children and grandmother to three. They are her inspiration and joy.

Djidjoho Gnonhossou, Co-President Elect
Dr. Djidjoho Akloubou Gnonhossou is an Assistant Professor in Human Development and Family Studies in the department of FCS at Seattle Pacific University (SPU). She earned her PhD in Family Sciences from the University of Kentucky where she served as a teaching and research assistant. Her multidisciplinary background in Marriage Family and Child Counseling (Fresno Pacific University), Christian Education (Asbury Theological Seminary), Communication and Linguistic Sciences (Benin), Mediation, and cross-cultural experiences informs her passion, services, and research interests. She teaches courses in family processes including human development, children and families, marriage, and conflict transformation. She approaches teaching as a sacred means to engage the whole person for growth and contextual transformation. Her teaching seeks to integrate spiritual, socio-cultural, affective, and intellectual dimensions. She enjoys volunteering to serve families in the church and in the community. A mother of four growing children, she has been married for 20 years.

Jordy Larsen, Co-President-Elect
Jordy is in her fifth year at Dimmitt Middle School as an FCS educator. She graduated from Seattle Pacific University in 2016 with a B.A. in Human Development and Family Studies then went on the following year to graduate with a Masters in Teaching. She has taught personal finance, sewing, cooking basics and nutrition. Outside of being a teacher, Jordy loves to cook, take her dog on walks/hikes and read fiction books. She is excited to serve on the board and continue her love of learning!

Margaret Viebrock, Treasurer
Margaret Viebrock is a WSU tenured faculty professor and Chelan & Douglas County Extension Director. She manages a 3-county SNAP-Ed nutrition education program, teaches food safety, administers a diabetes prevention program, leads the Strengthening Families and the Supporting Children Through Divorce programs and provides risk management education for farm families. Margaret has worked for WSU for more than 50 years. In 2019 she received the Distinguished Service Award from the American Association of Family Consumer Sciences, serves on many national boards, and has received numerous awards and grants for her work. She has been recognized for her leadership skills, professional presentations, and innovative programs. Margaret is married to Sid, a WSU graduate and wheat and cattle rancher on the Waterville plateau. Their daughter Amanda, also a WSU graduate in agricultural economics, owns two grocery stores, one in Waterville and the other in Palouse. Margaret and Sid have two grandchildren, Harper and Torin. They also own Highway 2 Brew, an espresso shop in Waterville.
Introducing the 2023 Executive Board, Continued

Lauren Lindbloom, Secretary
Lauren is currently serving on the WAFCS Board as Secretary, and WA-FACSE Board as Co-Webmaster. She has just completed her first year of teaching at Marysville Middle School as a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher, instructing Culinary and Career Preparation courses. She is also the FCCLA adviser for the middle school chapter in her school district.

Lauren is an avid reader, loves to sew, and loves the outdoors – she is often found hiking or camping in fairer weather. She also loves to travel, and is looking forward to a few fun trips in Summer 2023!

LynDee Lombardo, Awards and Recognition
For over fifty years LynDee’s world has come into focus through the lens of Family and Consumer Sciences. She is a Home Economics graduate of Western Washington University, with an MA in Textiles, Clothing and Design, emphasizing textile history and quilt studies, from the University of Nebraska.

She loves to travel and has visited museums from coast to coast, Alaska to California, and in Europe. Also a Costume Society of America member, she watches films with an eye to costume and set design. She has a collection of historical domestic science and Home Economics-related books on the topics of clothing and foods with several published over a hundred years ago.

Retirement from teaching high school FCS gives LynDee the freedom to do historical research culminating in creating articles and presentations about quilts, textiles and costume. She volunteers at her local elementary school library two days a week.

LynDee is happiest when sharing her knowledge and love of textiles or communing with fabric in her sewing studio.

Karen Bergh, Awards and Recognition
Karen received a degree in Family and Consumer Sciences Education at Washington State University and taught in secondary schools for 32 years. She graduated from Iowa State University with a PhD in Family and Consumer Sciences Education and has spent 22 years as a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher educator at Central Washington University focusing on developing opportunities for CTE student to complete or further their education.

Karen has been involved in a leadership capacity at many levels. She has actively participated in the development, administration, and delivery of the Great Plains IDEA FCS Teacher Education Program, administered the post baccalaureate FCS teacher certification program at Central Washington University, and served on the management team for the National Partnership for Recruiting, Preparing, and Supporting FCS Educators.

Elisa Jones, Membership
Greetings from Elisa! This is her first year on the WAFCS Executive Board. The school year 2022-2023 is her third year at Curtis Senior High School where she teaches Fashion Design and Culinary Arts. Elisa graduated from Seattle Pacific University with a Bachelors degree in Family and Consumer Sciences Secondary Education and a Masters degree in Teaching.
Introducing the 2023 Executive Board, Continued

Carri Smith, Nominations

Carri is finishing her 10th year at Kelso High School as an FCS and PE teacher. She graduated from Seattle Pacific University in 2003 with a B.A. in Family Consumer Sciences and received an M.S. in FCS Education from Central Washington University in 2012. FACSE classes she has taught over the years include Health, Fashion, and Nutrition & Fitness. This fall of 2023 she will be taking on the culinary classes at Kelso High School. Another hobby/job in her life besides FCS education is volleyball. Carri played volleyball at S.P.U. and has been coaching since 2003. She is also currently in her 10th year as the head volleyball coach at Lower Columbia College. She has been married to her husband, Joshua Smith, since May of 2003 and they are looking forward to traveling for their 20th anniversary this summer!

Rene Ketchum, National Programs

Rene’ retired in 2021 after a 26-year career as FACSE/FCCLA Adviser and Physical Education Teacher at Toledo High School. She coached Varsity Volleyball at Toledo High School and Middle School, JV Fast Pitch, and JV and Varsity Track. Working with students outside of the classroom was a plus to communication and connections in the classroom. Rene was inducted into the FCCLA Hall of Fame along with 4 others from Washington last year.

Rene’ has been on the WA-FACSE Board in the following positions: Networking, Secretary, President Elect and President. She currently serves on the WAFCS Board chairing National Programs and Public Policy Committees, and has filled the positions of Nominations, President Elect and President. Rene’ looks forward to a year of learning, and a successful Fall Conference.

In her free time, Rene’ plays USTA Tennis, loves to take walks with her husband, helps with quilting at church, travels, and relaxes when she has time.

Diane Grossenbacher, Executive Director

Diane is our Executive Director. She is an SPU grad, with a degree in Home Economics Education. After teaching for two years, her focus changed to raising a family. Right after her first child was born, she was asked to be the “Executive Secretary” for the Washington Home Economics Association; that was in 1986. Today, Diane continues to fill the role of “Executive Director” for the Washington Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.

During her working career, Diane developed and ran a sewing school out of her home, helped teach a preschool, and then worked in the CTE at the district office. She is now the office manager at Lynndale Elementary School, but is still passionate about CTE; particularly FCS.

Diane has formed many wonderful relationships with WAFCS officers and members and looks forward to another year serving on the board. Her greatest joy is her four grandchildren.

Donna Graham, Communications Director

Donna Graham is the current WAFCS Past President and Communications Director. Her duties in that position include editing the newsletter, sending out communications, and management of the WAFCS website and Facebook page.

Donna has been active in the Washington Affiliate since 1986. She has served in several capacities on the WAFCS Executive Board and a number of annual conference planning committees. She has also served on several AAFCS Committees including the AAFCS Bylaws, Policies & Procedures Committee, the AAFCS Community of Business & Entrepreneurship, Community of Lifelong Professionals, the AAFCS Annual Conference Innovations Taskforce Roundtable and has attended AAFCS Leadership Conferences from 2008-2015.

Donna has been married to Don for 51 years. She owned a custom sewing and alterations business until 2018. In her free time, she loves to remodel the home they built in 1977, read, garden, go camping, travel, do needlepoint, and believe it or not, sew.
WAFCS Proudly Introduces Two Member Support Programs

**Looking for Free Clock Hours?**

Washington Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (WAFCS) will offer 9-18 Clock Hours per year. Interested?

Information about clock hours can be found at [https://washingtonafcs.org/clock-hour-documents/](https://washingtonafcs.org/clock-hour-documents/)

**Easy-Apply Grants may fund your creative ideas!**

- FCS Educators, WSU Extension employees, authorized volunteers, and student teachers are eligible to apply.

  - Two Easy-Apply Grants of $500 each will be available for Winter, DUE 2/10/2023
  - Two Easy-Apply Grants of $500 each will be available for Spring, DUE 4/10/2023

Find details and application at washingtonafcs.org

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**2023-2024 Affiliate Action Plan Goals and Objectives**

- **#1: Establish Current, Potential, and Lapsed Member Needs**
  - Assess Fall Conference feedback
  - Contact current members and communicate gratitude for membership via New Year greetings
  - Survey current, terminated, and student membership with a simple survey

- **#2: Increase Membership by 10+%**
  - Brainstorm ideas for recruiting members
  - Brainstorm ideas for retaining members
  - Invite higher ed instructors to share expertise or practical research
  - Explore possibility of bundling AAFCS membership with Fall Conference registration
  - Invite and feature vendors, business owners, and influencers to join WAFCS

- **#3: Build Member Community**
  - Create board unity:
    - Train and clearly outline expectations
    - Run efficient board meetings that include Chair and Committee reports
    - Introduce board members through newsletter and Instagram
    - Welcome new members by asking for fresh input and ideas
  - Create a joint WAFCS/WA-FACSE conference that attracts 10+% more participants in 2023 than in 2022
  - Participate in Fall Conference by attending and volunteering
  - Communicate and promote Easy Apply Grants
  - Communicate and promote AAFCS webinars and WAFCS Clock Hour offerings
  - Seek out members and potential members to fill chairs and committee positions. Invite others to participate, even if commitment is one ZOOM brainstorming session for a committee.
  - Use the Washington FCS Annual Conference as a venue for reconnection with members and potential members
    - Each board member creates a conference workshop and invites another member to co-present
    - Propose session for Easy Award Grants
    - Propose college reunions with intention
    - Propose a “What is FCS?” session
  - Establish state level awards for teaching, service, and research.
  - Establish community group “making a difference” awards.
  - Nominate members and potential members for Awards at both the state and national levels.

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www.washingtonafcs.org | www.facebook/WashingtonAFCS.org
Start your personal two to five-year plan in January 2023 to become the Washington Affiliate Family and Consumer Sciences next Teacher of the Year (TOY).

No one knows better than you what your main skills and interests are in the field of Family and Consumer Sciences, so start refining and focusing your teaching skills to work towards recognition as an outstanding educator in those areas of FCS where you excel. At the national level, past TOYs have made their mark in child development, clothing education, financial fitness, and general Family and Consumer Sciences programs. Additionally, winning programs have stressed FCCLA participation and achievement, community and service learning, the earning of health and child development certifications, and anti-bullying education and outreach. Teachers of FCS from elementary through secondary level can be candidates for Teacher of the Year recognition; and educators from both large metropolitan schools and small rural school districts have won the award for their exemplary programs.

To be eligible for the Affiliate Teacher of the Year, the gateway to nomination for the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences National TOY, an instructor must be a member of AAFCS at the time of submission plus the three (3) consecutive years immediately prior to this submission. The instructor also needs to have taught the submitted program a minimum of two previous years and the current year. A member educator, teaching in Kindergarten through Grade 12, also needs to meet full time employment requirements and other criteria which can be accessed at the national website at the specific TOY section at https://www.aafcs.org/resources/recognition/awards/toy. With a letter of support from Washington’s Affiliate President, plus three other supporting letters, the Affiliate Teacher of the Year can move on to compete for recognition at the national level, where a winning state teacher is invited to the National Conference in June to share their application notebook containing charts, graphs, photos, and examples of media recognition highlighting the key points of their FCS Curriculum Focus. Sponsored by Goodheart-Willcox Publishing Company, the Teacher of the Year award recognizes exemplary teachers who utilize cutting-edge methods, techniques, and activities to provide stimulus and visibility to family and consumer sciences in elementary and secondary education. The AAFCS National Teacher of the Year is awarded a certificate and check, tangible financial recognition, from Goodheart-Willcox for their work and contribution to the field of FCS education to apply towards their continuing service.

All WAFCS Executive Board members are available to assist you in your journey to recognition, especially our WAFCS Recognition Committee Members, Karen Bergh and LynDee Lombardo. Recent Washington State Teacher of the Year winners have been Dawn Boyden in 2019 and Renee Ketchum in 2015.

“Belonging to AAFCS is an important part of being a family and consumer sciences teacher. What I give to my profession comes back many times over through support, recognition and continuing education at the local, state and national levels.”

Jennifer A Tabor, Former National FCS Teacher of the Year