

Save the date for our **Annual General Business Meeting on December 1st at 5 pm!** This year, we'll be celebrating our incredible profession and the individuals who make it shine. Join us as we explore ready-to-use resources for your classrooms and workplaces, deepen our understanding of the Family and Consumer Sciences field, and connect as a community dedicated to growth and impact. And of course - no meeting is complete without **fun door prizes**, including **Amazon gift cards!**



Kick off FCS Week with us!

When: December 1st | **Time:** 5:00 PM

Where: Zoom (link will open at 4:30 pm)

- Please update your zoom connection/link a few days before the call to avoid complications on the day of the call.
- Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS, or Android: <https://wsu.zoom.us/j/97724994377?pwd=aoPePsWpVJXTBS1AENE9gxJTmTJABR.1>
- If you prefer to call in: +1 253 215 8782

Let's stay connected, share ideas, and continue shaping the future of our FCS community - together.

The WAFCS Executive Board

From the Desk of Jordy Larsen, WAFCS President

Hello again, and happy November! I hope you're all staying warm and dry as we settle into the "big dark" season of the Pacific Northwest. As this time of year arrives, I'm reminded of how much I have to be grateful for - my colleagues, our dedicated board members, and the inspiring work ahead as we move toward a new year.

Our annual state conference, held in partnership with our sister organization WA-FACSE, took place at the end of October in Wenatchee. The event offered a wide range of workshop sessions designed to deepen our knowledge across the many facets of our profession. That's one of the beautiful things about Family and Consumer Sciences; we support individuals and families across such diverse content areas, there is always something new to learn.

What I love most about the conference, though, goes beyond the professional development. It's the opportunity to connect with all of you. The conversations, the shared ideas, and the wonderful people I met throughout those three full days were truly the highlight of my experience. As the sunlight fades this time of year, my own energy can dip—but connecting with others, learning from your experiences, and collaborating to solve real-world problems always lifts my spirits. Our world is full of challenges, but when we come together with creativity and care, the results are powerful.

As we return to our own communities and workplaces, I hope we can continue feeling connected. One simple way to stay engaged is by following our Facebook and Instagram pages, where we share updates from the FCS world—both nationally and across our state.

Looking ahead, please mark your calendar for our **Annual General Business Meeting** on **Monday, December 1st at 5 pm**. All members are warmly encouraged to attend!

Another exciting event on the horizon is the **2026 National Conference**, taking place June 18 - 21 in Louisville, Kentucky. I'm grateful to have attended the leadership summit there in late September, where I had the chance to explore the city, learn about its history, and connect with fellow FCS professionals. Much like our state conference, the national gathering is a wonderful reminder that even when our work feels siloed, we are part of a vibrant, supportive network doing meaningful work across the country.

I hope to see many of you soon, and I wish you a smooth and fulfilling close to the calendar year.

Warmly,

Jordy Larsen

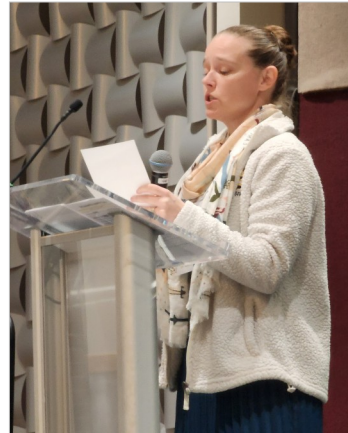
Fun Times and Learning Experiences in Wenatchee



Margaret Viebrock
Teaching ServSafe



Carri Smith, WAFCS Secretary
& Sharleen Kato, SPU, Retired



Jacky Warnock



Jordy Larsen



LynDee Lombardo, WAFCS
Co-Awards Chair, Teaching Quilting 101



Bilen Yitbarek, WAFCS
President-Elect, teaching line dancing



Leah Song, WAFCS Membership Co-Chair



Donna Graham, WAFCS Communications Director
Cori Schmidt, WAFCS Co-Membership Chair
Leah Song, WAFCS Co-Membership Chair



Bilen Yitbarek, WAFCS President-Elect
Maureen Collins, WA-FACSE Co-President
Jacky Warnock, WA-FACSE Co-President
Jordy Larsen, WAFCS President

2026 Affiliate Program of Work

1. Deepen engagement through digital connection

- Build strong online presence to keep members connected and active year-round

2. Strengthen retention through personal outreach

- Foster a sense of belonging and connection among all members

3. Elevate visibility & collaboration across FCS

- Increase awareness of AAFCS' impact and partnerships

WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION



2026 Executive Board Officers

President: Jordy Larsen

President Elect: Bilen Yitbarek

Secretary: Jacky Warnock

Treasurer: Margaret Viebrock

Nominations: René Ketchum

Membership: Leah Song & Cori Schmidt

Awards: Karen Bergh, LynDee Lombardo

Executive Director: Diane Grossenbacher

Communications Director: Donna Graham

Congratulations to the 2025 WAFCS Scholarship Recipient

Dear Washington Association of Family & Consumer Sciences,

My name is Jaelyn Christensen, and I want to thank you so much for the Washington Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Scholarship. Because of your support, I am able to continue pursuing my degree with less financial stress on my family.

I am from Kennewick. I come from a long line of teachers, including my great grandmother who left me with the value of education. Growing up I always knew I wanted to teach but I never knew what subject, that is until I discovered Family and Consumer Sciences in my sophomore year of high school.

The first FCS class I ever took was child psychology, and I have been in love with FCS ever since. I continued to take every FCS class I could that fit my schedule while still taking my AP/Honors classes. My senior year is when I decided that FCS is what I wanted to teach with the help of my amazing teacher, Mrs. Zerba, at Southridge High School.

In my short time at WSU, I have fallen in love with the program more than ever and I am so excited about where these next years are going to take me. It is because of you that I can continue with the program without worry of the burden put onto my family.

My father suddenly passed away when I was 10 years old, and my mom has since been taking care of my older brother and I as a single mother. While I wish my dad were here to see me today, I know that it has made me stronger and better fit for any challenges the world may throw at me. It pushes me every day to continue and jump at any opportunity that is presented to me as I know life can end at any second and I need to appreciate what I have while I have it.

I continue to grow and choose to participate in all my school has to offer. As a student at WSU, I work at two on-campus jobs. I got my first job in September 2024 in the CAHNRS Student Success and Academics Programs office, where I help support the office staff with events and other office work. I also work as a Cougar Connector in the WSU Office of Admissions where I recruit and help prospective student with their college using my own life experiences.

Other extracurriculars I am involved in include being a CAHNRS Ambassador and Social Media Chair (and incoming president) of Human Development Club. I am also helping to start a Women's Ice Hockey Club at WSU. I care deeply about WSU and its community and will take any chance I can to spread the love and spirit many of us Cougs feel for our school.

As I finish this letter I want to take one more opportunity to let you know how grateful and appreciative I am for your generosity to WSU and giving me the chance to spread Cougar spirit whenever I get the chance.

Thank you again, and GO COUGS!

Jaelyn Christensen



The Chelan-Douglas Counties SNAP-Ed Nutrition Education honored with WAFCS Group Contributing to the Betterment of Families for 2025 Award

Under the direction of Margaret Viebrock, Director of Chelan and Douglas Counties Extension, the SNAP-Ed program has provided innovative programs to educate SNAP recipients.

In 1992, Chelan and Douglas Counties became the first in Washington State to receive a USDA Food and Nutrition Service grant to bring nutrition education to limited income families. The program began with “English as a Second Language” students as a two-fold project: teaching participants how to shop for and prepare nutritious meals for their families, while also strengthening their English language skills. Since then, the grant has been renewed continuously for 33 years - clear evidence of the program’s lasting success.



The goal of SNAP-Ed is to help low-income families make healthier food choices, understand the importance of physical activity, and ultimately reduce obesity. Studies show that SNAP-Ed programs can yield up to \$10.64 in health care savings for every \$1 spend on implementation. This return on investment reduces health care costs, improves educational outcomes, supports higher lifetime earnings, and increases life expectancy.

In the Chelan-Douglas-Okanogan region, SNAP-Ed engages communities through multiple strategies: direct classroom education, Policy, Systems, and Environmental (PSE) changes, food pantry behavioral economics, and programs that connect families to growing and eating fresh and healthy food. SNAP-Ed also partners with organizations such as Head Start, WIC, EPIC, and senior citizens to ensure nutrition education reaches people across the lifespan.

Here are some specifics on the wide-ranging programs they have initiated and provided to the citizens of Chelan and Douglas Counties in the last few years:

Make Every Bite Count, a program which helps build essential skills in meal planning, food label reading, budgeting and healthy recipe preparation, was adjusted to accommodate participants during the COVID years with Zoom meetings in English and Spanish, offered in the morning and again in the evening to reach their enrolled families, plus the creation of a private Facebook group to establish a virtual community for enhanced engagement and accountability.

Family Story Walk was created to inspire families to be active together, make healthy food choices, and connect with gardening and local farmers’ markets. The innovative program blended goals for literacy, physical activity, and nutrition education in a fun and engaging way. Originally launched in parks and community gardens, the Story Walk has expanded to classrooms, school STEM nights, and public and school libraries. Walking a path, inside or outside, families follow the pages of a children’s book, displayed in Spanish and English, reading, talking and moving together. Variations of the walk have been created working with Head Start and local Native American tribal partners.

Establishing Community Gardens with partners as diverse as a local East Wenatchee Church, the South Douglas Conservation District, county Master Gardeners, and a women’s shelter.

Creating a **Back Pack Program** partnered with the Chelan-Douglas church community, partnering with schools that have a high-free and reduced price rates for Food Access with a Mobile Food Market, contributing to the betterment of youth and Families through Nutrition Education in the Schools, providing adult education classes, providing cooking demonstrations and recipes featuring the Community Cupboard pantry foods, and many more.

While they have been recognized nationally for their work, the Washington State Affiliate of Family and Consumer Sciences was proud to honor the SNAP-Ed program for their service to the health and well-being of the people of Chelan and Douglas Counties.

Jacky Warnock - 2025 WAFCS New Achiever Award

Jacqueline (Jacky) Warnock received the 2025 Washington Association of Family and Consumer Sciences “New Achiever” award at the WA FCS Annual Conference in October.

The award identifies and honors emerging family and consumer sciences professionals who have exhibited the potential to make significant contributions to the field through their involvement with AAFCS.

Jacky earned a BS degree in Human Environmental Sciences with a major in Apparel Studies, minor in Global Studies, and the MEd degree in Educational Technology from the University of Arkansas (Fayetteville) plus the MS degree (May 2021) in Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) from Central Washington University.

Presently, Jacky is teaching a Financial Literacy class plus four food science classes at Southridge High School in Kennewick. Additionally, she has taken leadership roles with the Washington Affiliate of AAFCS and ACTE WA-FACSE.

In 2023, Jacky applied for and received our first WAFCS Affiliate Easy Apply Grant. This grant focused on two goals (1) to create an “Iron Chef” type final exam to determine if students had retained knowledge gained in conjunction with mastery of skills taught in the classroom; and (2) to have a professional videographer to prepare a documentary of this activity. The film was presented at the 2023-2024 WAFCS state meeting.

Through teaching, research and service, Jacky has been involved in FCS at the local, state, national, and international levels. Jacky’s work will be submitted to AAFCS for national recognition at the 2026 AAFCS Annual Conference in Louisville, Kentucky.



Jacky with Carol Anderson (left) and Jacky’s mother Mary Warnock (right) at the AAFCS Annual Conference in Kansas City

Margaret Viebrock Honored with the National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences Hall of Fame Award



Margaret Viebrock’s membership with NEAFCS, and career with WSU Extension, spans 55 years of dedication to the profession with innovative programming, excellence in leadership, numerous grants, and multiple awards. Her work exemplifies her commitment to NEAFCS as a leader and FCS professional.

While Margaret’s work supports traditional FCS programs. She is a leader with innovative ideas. Together with partners, she designed and managed a commercial kitchen for entrepreneurs which strengthened the local economy and created jobs. For more than 15 years she managed a 6-state “Women, Farms & Food” project for women involved in agriculture, directs a 3-county SNAP-Ed nutrition program, facilitates the *Partners in Parenting* program for families to meet court requirements for separation or divorce, and developed an award-winning zoom series titled *Make Every Bite Count*, to help families learn to prepare healthy meals on a limited budget. She manages *Strengthening Families*, a 7-week course for families and youth to learn parenting and communication skills. She developed an award-winning *Family Story Walk* to encourage healthy eating, gardening and being active. Many of her programs have been duplicated across the United States.

Margaret is very skilled at changing her program focus to meet emerging needs. Her partnerships are never-ending, ranging from social service agencies, libraries, Master Gardeners, schools, medical facilities, city government, and health departments. Margaret is very active in other professional organizations, but always with the intent of furthering the values of FCS. She chairs the Community of Extension with AAFCS, serves on the Journal of Extension Board of Directors, participates in career fairs, and serves on a local FCS School Advisory Board. She advocates for and promotes careers with Extension because of her commitment to the profession. Margaret is very deserving of the NEAFCS Hall of Fame Award!

WAFCS Member Opportunity: Easy Apply Grants

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 \$600 each will be available for 2025:
DUE 12/10/2025

Find details and application at
washingtonafcs.org

NEED ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR an in-class project, equipment, supplies, field trip or all-school project? Support your project goals with the...

Washington Affiliate of Family & Consumer Sciences

Easy-Apply School Grant for 2025

ALL Washington **Family and Consumer Sciences members** who are engaged in delivering Family and Consumer Sciences educational programs from WSU Extension employees, authorized volunteers, student teachers to active FCS educators are eligible to apply.

Two Easy-Apply Grants of \$600 each will be available for Winter 2025

Two Easy-Apply Grants of \$600 each will be available for Spring 2026

The goals for this grant program are to:

Engage project participants through exposure to a wider variety of FCS topics

Enhance participant learning by supplementing equipment, supplies, or educational experiences

Encourage new and continuing

Current **WAFCS membership** is required to apply for the \$600 grant. If you are not currently a member, it is easy to join at \$100 per year for **new** professional members and \$150 for **renewing** members, with \$50 for collegiate or postsecondary student members. Visit the national website at **AAFCS.org** to join or renew your membership with the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, noting Washington State as your chosen affiliate. You can select to join with the yearly membership fee paid in full or in monthly installments.

[Click here for the Easy Apply Grant application](#)



Membership Benefits: Awards and Grants

Family and Consumer Sciences professionals play an important role in supporting individuals, families, and communities through education, outreach, and research. Each year, AAFCS recognizes these amazing individuals for their hard work and dedication through our achievement awards. Additionally, AAFCS supports grant supported research and program development.

The following recognitions will be awarded in 2026:

Save the Date! The applications/nominations for AAFCS Awards are:

Distinguished Service Award

- Open: August 01, 2025
- Due: November 03, 2025

All Other Awards

- Open: November 03, 2025
- Due: January 12, 2026

Grants

- Open: September 01, 2025
- Due: December 15, 2025

Teacher of the Year

The National 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.

This award is sponsored by Goodheart-Willcox Publishing Company which provides a monetary award to the recipient.

[Learn More](#)

Undergraduate Scholarships

AAFCS awards undergraduate scholarships to individuals who have exhibited the potential to make contributions to the family and consumer sciences profession. Individuals who receive an undergraduate scholarship will receive financial support for the study of family and consumer sciences.

[Learn More](#)

Graduate Fellowships

The American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) awards graduate fellowships to individuals who have exhibited the potential to make contributions to the family and consumer sciences profession. Individuals who receive a graduate fellowship will receive financial support for the study of family and consumer sciences.

[Learn More](#)

Leader Award

The Leader Award identifies and honors family and consumer sciences professionals who have made significant contributions to the field through their involvement with AAFCS.

[Learn More](#)

New Achiever

The New Achiever Award identifies and honors emerging family and consumer sciences professionals who have exhibited the potential to make significant contributions to the field through their involvement with AAFCS.

[Learn More](#)

Questions about awards?

Contact Donna Graham, WAFCS Communications Director, at dcgrahamsews@gmail.com.