



***The State of the Washington Affiliate  
An Active Thriving FCS Association***

***In this issue we will:***

- Re-introduce the 2026 Affiliate Plan of Action and Executive Board
- Recognize, Celebrate, and Honor WAFCS Members who, throughout their careers, have contributed to the Legacy of the Washington State Affiliate
  - ◆ Dr. Debbie Handy - AAFCS Distinguished Service Award
  - ◆ Margaret Viebrock - WSU’s Length of Service Award
  - ◆ AAFCS New Achiever
  - ◆ Remembering Idona Kellogg - a 56+ year member who passed in October 2025
  - ◆ 2025 Easy Apply Grant Awardee - Recipient, Jacky Warnock, uses funding to start the **Suns Baking and Pastry Club** at her school in the Tri-Cities
  - ◆ You too can apply for an Easy Apply Grant!
  - ◆ 2026 AAFCS Annual Conference in Louisville, Kentucky
  - ◆ WA FCS Annual Conference information

***AAFCS / WAFCS Membership: Join, Renew, and Retain!***

AAFCS is proud to be the only professional association dedicated to Family and Consumer Sciences students and professionals who represent multiple practice settings and content areas, and are committed to positively impacting the lives of individuals, families, and communities. AAFCS advances the profession of Family and Consumer Sciences and provides many resources to members. Invest in yourself and the profession and take advantage of the opportunities AAFCS can offer to you.

<b>Student</b>	<b>Professional</b>	<b>Emeritus</b>
<b>\$50</b>	<b>\$150</b>	<b>\$100</b>

***AAFCS Resources & Current Programs***

As members of AAFCS, you are entitled access to several online resources.  
Links are provided below.



**Join Fellow Family and Consumer Sciences Professionals**

Join us as we work with legislators, regulators, industry, their communities and others to bring visibility to emerging challenges and the critical role that Family and Consumer Sciences plays in supporting individuals, building strong communities, and establishing frameworks for success in communities around the United States.

<https://www.aafcs.org/advocacy/home>



A longstanding campaign by the AAFCS to encourage all FCS professionals, students, affiliates, communities, programs, related organizations, and supporters to ELEVATE Family and Consumer Sciences! We celebrate and highlight the value and impact of the FCS profession!

Join AAFCS as we celebrate the value and impact of the FCS profession! more about our different campaigns and find out how to participate!

<https://www.aafcs.org/news-and-events/elevate>



*Making a Difference in the Lives of Individuals, Families, & Communities*



There is a documented shortage of Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) educators across the nation? To address the shortage, an innovative and collaborative approach to recruit, prepare, and support FCS educators is critically important!

<https://www.fcsed.net/home>

# 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 Washington's Newest AAFCS Distinguished Service Awardee, Debbie Handy!*



Debbie Handy, Ph.D., CFCS, said Yes to FCS more than 40 years ago. She completed a Bachelor's Degree in Home Economics Education from the University of Wisconsin-Stout. She taught grades 7-12 in Wisconsin and advised the local FHA chapter. She completed both Master's and Doctorate degrees at Washington State University (WSU) and has been teaching at WSU for more than 30 years. Dr. Handy enjoys working with her students and being involved in FCS related organizations and activities. She served as the Parliamentarian, Newsletter Editor, Student Unit Adviser, and President for the Washington AAFCS Affiliate. She has been a member of the WA-ACTE FACSE Executive Board for more than 30 years. She was the Executive Director for Washington FCCLA for 18 years. She served as member at large, recorder, and treasurer on the AAFCS Board of Directors, and chaired the AAFCS Council for Certification.

Anyone who knows or has worked with Debbie is aware of her influence on the FCS profession. She was highly recommended for this award by one of the students she mentored at WSU as well as current and past officers of AAFCS.

Excerpts from the three recommendations proves that Debbie so deserves this award:

*"As someone whose entire professional trajectory was shaped by her guidance, I can testify that Dr. Handy's impact extends far beyond what any resume or list of accomplishments can capture. She changes lives, builds careers, and elevates our profession through every interaction. The Distinguished Service Award would honor not only her remarkable achievements but also recognize the profound and lasting legacy she continues to build through her service to family and consumer sciences. I offer my highest recommendation for Dr. Deborah J. Handy for this distinguished honor."*

Michelle Spenser  
Executive Director  
(WA-ACTE)  
Former Student at WSU

*"I had the privilege of serving alongside Debbie on the AAFCS Board of Directors. Through our work in that capacity, I came to know of Debbie's **dedication** to AAFCS and commitment to the Family & Consumer Sciences profession. I witnessed her ability to think on her feet, take time to be reflective and introspective, and remain open to a wide variety of solutions to a single challenge. Debbie and I worked together on the AAFCS Finance Committee where I witnessed first-hand her high level of **integrity** and **forward-thinking**. Genuine **compassion** and **empathy** underlie all that Debbie does and stands for. She prioritizes the human condition in every decision she makes and embodies the AAFCS Vision to create spaces where individuals, families, and communities are achieving optimal quality of life assisted by competent, caring professionals. Dr. Handy is **that** professional and represents the totality of AAFCS at a high level of leadership and experience, making her truly deserving of this award."*

Debra K Andres, MS, CFCS-HDFS  
FCS Agent, Kansas State Extension  
AAFCS Past President, 2023-2024

*"Dr. Deborah J. Handy is highly deserving of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) Distinguished Service Award. She has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to advancing the mission of Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) through exceptional leadership, scholarship, and service. Her career reflects not only outstanding professional achievement but also the integrity, attention to detail, and collaborative spirit that define the very best of our profession. Her scholarship—anchored in teacher preparation, program assessment, and student engagement—has been widely published in respected journals, including the Family and Consumer Sciences Research Journal and the Journal of Family and Consumer Sciences. Her article, "Focusing on the Future: Revising the Standards for Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences" (2021) received the AAFCS Best Paper Award and was later recognized by Wiley as one of the journal's Top Downloaded Papers, underscoring both the scholarly and practical influence of her work."*

Barbara L. Stewart, Ed.D., CFCS  
Professor and Chair  
Human Development & Consumer Sciences  
University of Houston  
Counselor / Immediate Past President  
AAFCS Board of Directors, 2024-2025



**HONORING MARGARET  
VIEBROCK'S IMPACT ON  
COMMUNITY AND AGRICULTURE  
AT WSU**

In the January issue of the **WSU Insider**, it was reported that Margaret was recently recognized for her 55+ years to WSU Extension. Below is the article by Joe Roberts, College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences.

Though the content of Margaret Viebrock's Extension coursework has changed since she started working for Washington State University in 1970, the mission of strengthening her community never has.

Believed to be WSU's longest-serving employee, Viebrock, director of Chelan-Douglas County Extension, has helped educate fellow Washingtonians for over 55 years. She received university, national, and state awards for her length of service and impactful outreach this past fall.

"I like to connect with people," Viebrock said. "I began with teaching people how to cook with microwaves safely. Then, as now, we use university

research and information to guide our educational work. I'm most proud of the many people we've helped."

Prior to receiving WSU's length-of-service award, the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (NEAFCS) bestowed their Hall of Fame Award to Viebrock. Then, Washington Association of Family and Consumer Sciences also awarded her and the Chelan-Douglas SNAP-Ed Nutrition Education program the 2025 Group Contributing to the Betterment of Families award. In 2019 Margaret was awarded the AAFCS Distinguished Service Award.

"These awards represent rare and distinguished honors that celebrate sustained, transformational impact across our state and nation," said WSU Extension Director Vicki McCracken. "For over 55 years, Margaret's leadership has elevated the Extension profession and delivered measurable benefits to families and communities, setting a national bar for innovation, service, and excellence. These awards speak to that remarkable achievement."

In her time, Viebrock has led educational outreach including everything from ServSafe classes on food safety to parenting strategies and youth development programs with 4-H and Strengthening Families, an evidence-based family skills training curriculum.

"That 'aha' moment from people of 'oh, that's why food preservation has to be done this way,' or 'that's how you communicate with youth and set limits' — you really see people digesting what you've taught," she said. "Later, it's exciting when they report back that your recommendations worked."

Other notable achievements in Viebrock's career include leading the state's SNAP-Ed program and the Women in Agriculture program in the early '90s.

"When I started working for WSU Extension, not many women were farm owners," she said. "Now, nearly half of the farms in Washington list a woman as the main operator. I'm proud we could help support women-owned farms in my time with WSU."

Viebrock believes she was awarded honors in part for her commitment to understanding challenges facing local residents. "Find out what's important to your community and what it needs, then figure out the way you're going to approach it," she said. "To attract an audience, be creative, and make the subject exciting."

For Viebrock, the key to success, then as now, is a focus on the mission. "I reassess every three years to see what's working in our programming or if we can do something differently," she said. "You need to stay innovative to be impactful."

***Congratulations, Margaret, for being recognized for your 55+ years of commitment to the betterment of individuals, families, and communities!***

## *Honoring Idona Kellogg*

### *October 13, 1941 - October 30, 2025*



A 56+ years beloved member of WAFCS, Idona Kellogg, passed away in October.

Idona was active in our association until she retired. A dedicated member, she served in several Executive Board positions and was recognized as WAFCS Professional of the Year in 2010.

One of the most amazing things about Idona was that she had severe hearing loss. She learned to lip-read and continued teaching Home Economics/Family and Consumer Sciences in several Seattle area schools. After retiring she received a cochlear implant so she could continue her very active life.

Following retirement she became very involved in Euthenics, a Puget Sound based organization of retired Home Economics/FCS professionals.

Idona was a tireless professional and embodied professional spirits throughout her life. She is sorely missed by every life she touched.

Listed below are portions of her obituary.

Idona Lorene Kellogg passed in peace to her Heavenly home on 30 October 2025, with friends by her side and family and friends in her thoughts. After nearly a decade managing Parkinson's Disease, while living a full and active life, Idona left us shortly after her 84th birthday.

Idona was born on October 13, 1941 in Clifton, Colorado. Idona attended the University of Idaho where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics in 1963 and Master of Education degree in 1967. Idona was then attracted to Ketchikan, Alaska on a government teaching program and new adventures. Afterwards, Idona moved to the Puget Sound area where she taught Home Economics/Family Consumer Sciences for many years in multiple schools, retiring in 2006. Idona was very proud of winning the Golden Acorn Award for outstanding volunteerism at her schools.

A favorite pastime of Idona's was being a member of the Mountaineers and visiting Meany Ski Lodge, a place where she built many longtime friendships. Idona hosted some large gatherings of Mountaineers for hiking, folk dances, and potlucks. One of the most prominent relationships made at the Mountaineers was meeting her soulmate, Bob Bentler, in 1972 and later marrying him in 2006. Together they enjoyed a wonderful life skiing and laughing. Idona was a 57-year member of the Mountaineers.

Idona was an active member of other organizations including Toastmasters, where she won multiple awards, and Euthenics, where she was treasurer. Idona was also a long-time member of SOVREN Vintage Racing and Evergreen Lotus Car Club. One of her favorite stories was a 3,700-mile trip to Daytona Florida in 1969, towing Bob's Lotus 11 behind their black Ford Thunderbird.

Idona enjoyed having friends and family visit her. She was very generous with her time and had a keen interest in science and music, and watching the Seattle Mariners and Seahawks. Each July, Idona and a friend would head out to camp and explore eagle nests on a San Juan Island, or enjoy the Shakespeare Festival and Wildlife Safari in Oregon, or Coos Bay. Idona was a devoted and beloved aunt, teacher, and wife as well as an encouraging, positive and giving woman.

A faithful Catholic, Idona attended services every weekend and was involved in their church, St. Philomena Parish, since 1980. Her funeral, memorial service, and burial will be delayed until Spring 2026. Idona's ashes will be placed at the family burial site at Holyrood Cemetery in Shoreline, WA.

Contributions in memory of Idona Kellogg may be sent to:  
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research  
P.O. Box 5014  
Hagerstown, MD 21741 USA

*Jackie Warnock*  
**2025 WAFCS Easy Apply Grant Recipient**



The Easy Apply Grant is helping students rise to success in the kitchen at Southridge High School. Funding for the newly formed **Suns Baking & Pastry Club** is providing essential baking equipment, giving students hands-on experience with professional tools used to measure, mix, knead, shape, and bake a wide variety of goods.

With access to proper equipment, students are already putting their skills into practice by preparing homemade bread, cinnamon honey butter, and snickerdoodle cookies for school bake sales. Using the new equipment allows students to improve consistency, refine techniques, and present high-quality products to the school community while applying food science concepts in real-world settings.

Beyond technical skills, the program emphasizes real-world readiness. Students collaborate on projects from start to finish, building teamwork, time management, problem-solving, and attention to detail. Members also practice food safety and sanitation, analyze ingredients to enhance nutrition and quality, and learn budgeting, pricing, and cost analysis through bake sale planning and evaluations.

By sharing their creations with the school community, students gain confidence, develop lifelong cooking/baking skills, and explore potential careers in the food industry. The Suns Baking & Pastry Club represents a meaningful investment in both student learning and community connection within the Kennewick School District.

Some of Jacky's **Suns Baking & Pastry Club** students' products:



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

Deadlines:

April 14 and June 10, 2026

For more details, see Page 7 or online at

<https://washingtonafcs.org/wafcs-easy-apply-grants/>

## 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 2026  
Spring Deadlines:  
April 14, 2026  
June 10, 2026

Find details and application at  
[washingtonafcs.org](http://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 Grants for 2026**

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 Spring 2026

Deadlines:  
April 14 and June 10, 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 membership in the Washington Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Affiliate

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](http://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](#)

## 2026 AAFCS Annual Conference Louisville, Kentucky



### Registration Information

Join us June 18-21, 2026 in the dynamic city of Louisville, Kentucky for an unforgettable experience.

This year’s conference will feature an exciting lineup of **keynote speakers, hands-on workshops, and networking opportunities** with professionals who are passionate about advancing family and consumer sciences. Whether you're a long-time attendee or joining us for the first time, you'll find inspiration, connection, and growth at every turn.

#### Register before April 15, 2026 to take advantage of the Early Bird Discount!

**Included with Registration:** Ohio River Boat Tour following the opening ceremonies. Boarding will begin at 7:00 pm on June 18 for this two-hour tour. The boat tour is limited to the first 330 attendees to register and RSVP for the tour. RSVP for this experience during registration checkout. Already registered? Email [AAFCS](mailto:AAFCS) to RSVP. Don’t miss out - join us for fun and excitement on the river!

#### [Online Registration Information](#)

Professional Member
Early Bird: \$365
Early Bird Bundle: \$460
Regular: \$465
Regular Bundle: \$560

Emeritus Member
Early Bird: \$365
Early Bird Bundle: \$460
Regular: \$465
Regular Bundle: \$560

50 - Year Member
Early Bird: \$265
Early Bird Bundle: \$360
Regular: \$365
Regular Bundle: \$460

Student Member
Early Bird: \$230
Early Bird Bundle: \$275
Regular: \$230
Regular Bundle: \$275

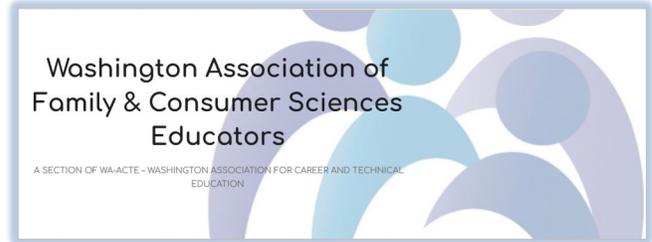


### Conference Hotel

The Galt House  
140 N Fourth St, Louisville, KY 40202

After registering for the conference, you will receive the hotel booking link via email.

Student Rate: \$149  
Hotel Block Rate: \$199



*Washington Association of FCS & Washington Association of FCS Educators*

*Washington FCS Annual Conference  
October 18 to 20, 2026  
Great Wolf Lodge, Grand Mound, Washington*

**2026 Theme: Cheers to FCS!**

**Conference Rates**

AAFCS/WA-FACSE Members	\$575.00	Non-Member \$875.
Student Member	\$150.00	Retired Non-members \$400.00
Retired member	\$350.00	

\*Includes all sessions, events, 2 lunches and 2 breakfasts

STUDENT member is defined as an undergraduate/graduate student preparing for a career in Family and Consumer Sciences, with paid membership in AAFCS.

RETIRED members shall be defined as a person who has retired from Family and Consumer Sciences.

NON-MEMBERS shall be defined as a person who is not a member of WA-FACSE or WAFCS.

After October 4, 2026, Registration Fees will be increased to LATE registration fees.

Online registration will close after the conference ends on October 20, 2026.

**Conference Hotel: Great Wolf Lodge, 20500 Old Highway 99 SW, Ground Mound, WA**

Booking Information: [www.greatwolf.com](http://www.greatwolf.com)

Reference Block Code: 2610FACSE

Rates: \$169.99/night + 19.99 resort fee + taxes

Hotel Booking Deadline: Friday, September 25, 2026