



February 11, 2021

Dear Members of the Georgia Legislature,

Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS), the People-Centered Sciences, draws from broad and diverse disciplines to develop and provide delivery of research-based information through experiential education and technology. FCS professionals help individuals and families develop essential knowledge and skills to successfully live and work in a complex world, and make meaningful contributions to our communities.

Professionals in the field are uniquely qualified to speak on many critical issues affecting individuals and families, such as maintaining a healthy lifestyle, wisely managing personal and family finances, and creating supportive relationships with family members, friends and co-workers. They are located nationwide in a variety of practice settings, including secondary schools, universities, government agencies, and businesses.

The pandemic did not stop FCS professionals across the nation from honoring the founder of our profession, Ellen Swallow Richards, the first female graduate of MIT, by celebrating FCS Day on her birthday, December 3rd. They "Dined In for FCS Success" with virtual events to tell the history, mission and value of the profession with bring-your-own healthy meals. They showed how the pandemic is shedding a light on our content area.

"Say YES to FCS" is a national campaign to fill the Family and Consumer Sciences Educator Pipeline. There is an established and growing shortage of FCS professionals to serve in educator positions in secondary education, higher education and Extension education. National FCS Educator Day is February 11, 2021. FCS educators provide opportunities to develop critical thinking, problem solving and leadership skills, and sustainable practices to address problems in diverse family, community and work environments.

Georgia will host the XXIV International Federation for Home Economics World Congress which will convene in Atlanta from September 4 – 10, 2022. IFHE is an International Non-Governmental Organization having consultative status with the United Nations. One thousand will participate in "Learning Day on the Move" – 12 technical, educational and cultural excursions throughout Georgia on September 9th. The theme is: "Soaring Towards Sustainable Development".

The "Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act", HB2353, reauthorized the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act through 2023. It specifically mentions, "...support for Family and Consumer Sciences programs to enhance personal effectiveness skills in order to develop strong workforce readiness..." under local use of funds.

Family and Consumer Sciences professionals work to:

- Reduce risk behaviors of youth, increase rates of family bonding and child success, increase quality of child care, and increase school readiness of children;
- Increase financial security and economic opportunities through development of local entrepreneurs and support for both consumers and businesses;
- Promote better health and prevention of chronic disease through holistic approaches to address complex issues -- food choice, physical activity, and community environments;
- Provide opportunities in classrooms to develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors needed for strengthening the well-being of individuals and families across the life span;
- Become responsible citizens and leaders for family, community and work settings.

With Governor Kemp's Proclamation of February 11, 2021, as Family and Consumer Sciences Day in Georgia, we celebrate not only at the Capitol, but also throughout Georgia, the positive impact that the profession of Family and Consumer Sciences makes in Georgians' lives every day.

Sincerely,

Megan Presley
Megan Presley, President

Joanne S. Cavis
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