

CATFACS NEWSLETTER

A Message from the President:

When I began my journey as a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher after graduating from CSU, I remember looking at some of the leading members of CATFACS in awe. I often wondered when I would feel as confident and comfortable as them as a professional myself. I also craved the amazing relationships and bonds they all had formed. Everyone seemed to know everyone, and not just who they were, but what their story was; kind of like a second family.

Fast forward eight years later, where I now have the honor of serving the organization as the President for 2016-2017. My time on the board has been a catalyst for my personal and professional growth. It has given me the opportunity to connect with other teachers, FACS and CTE professionals, travel to various conferences, and even meet with senators and other political representatives to advocate for our programs. Not only has this helped me develop as a teacher and professional, but I have created some amazing relationships along the way.

Serving as the CATFACS President provides me the opportunity to take on a leadership position in a field I am truly passionate about. However, my duties as president would not be possible without the help, encouragement, and leadership from the rest of the board. This year we had **EIGHT** amazing new CATFACS members take on the role of a committee chair on the board. These individuals took a leap of faith, without totally knowing what they were getting into and challenged themselves to be involved on another level. I know we have teachers across Colorado who are taking on similar roles in FCCLA, within their schools and

throughout their communities, and it makes me proud to be part of such a dedicated group of professionals.

As education continues to evolve, and more is expected of teachers each year, we have less time for the face to face interactions which are so integral in sustaining our strength as a profession. For some of us, CATFACS Winter Conference may be one of the few times you are able to network and spend time with other professionals who share your passion and understand your daily struggles and celebrations. As we have for the past few years, the board is planning some social activities that will hopefully benefit these personal connections, because they are equally as important as the professional ones.

While these events are fun, we also understand the importance of our members walking away with a refilled toolbox of tips, lessons, and content which they can use in their classrooms. This is one of the reasons we decided to put together the "Best Practices Exhibit" mini-PD sessions on Saturday morning. Many conference attendees have expressed a desire to have "round tables" with others who teach the same classes. However, in the past these have not worked well because they lack some structure and not everyone comes prepared to share, leading to unproductive and less meaningful sessions. These mini sessions are intended to better facilitate the sharing of ideas where teachers come prepared with a "best practice" and attendees can walk away with multiple ideas to implement in their classrooms.

The Best Practices Exhibit is a great opportunity to step up and become a leader,

even if it is just for a few hours. As I have talked about before, FACS in Colorado has its challenges, as does our profession as a whole. However, when we each step up to take on these leadership opportunities, no matter how big or small, we can build a stronger Colorado FACS. The reality is we are all busy, we all have life "stuff" and we are all overworked and probably underpaid. However, the more we take on the opportunities to network, connect and share with one another, the stronger and more aligned we will be. I want to continue the tradition of being an organization our professionals desire to be a part of and involved in. I truly believe we each have the ability to be the leaders our new and aspiring FACS teachers look up to. From where I began to where I am now, I can honestly say that being part of CATFACS is like having a second family who loves and supports each other in good times and bad; and I very much believe that we have and will continue to have one of the best FACS "Families" around!

Warmest Regards,

Autumn Francis
CATFACS President



Professional Award Nominations Due by January 1, 2017



The four CATFACS awards recognize excellence and dedication within the field of career and technical education among our members and supporters. The intent of each award is to seek out individuals who have contributed to the success of Colorado Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) and Career and Technical Education (CTE) through the quality of their work and their involvement in the CTE community.

Teacher of the Year

Individuals who are currently employed as full-time classroom/laboratory teachers in a family and consumer sciences education program are eligible recipients for this award. Nominees must be classroom/laboratory teachers at the time of selection. Contributions and achievements on which the nomination is based should have been made within the past ten years.

The nominee should have been involved in some capacity in FCS/CATFACS and/or CACTE activities at the local, state, and/or national level and must have been a member of CATFACS/CACTE/ACTE for a minimum of the past five consecutive years.

Outstanding New FACS Professional

Individuals who are currently employed as full-time classroom/laboratory teachers in a family and consumer sciences education program are eligible for this award. Nominees must have taught in a family and consumer sciences education program for a minimum of three but not more than five years. (Applicants may be in their sixth year of teaching at the time of application). Age is not a determining factor. This is a competition award and only one individual will be selected.

Distinguished Service by a Member or Friend

To recognize current CATFACS/CACTE member(s) who have made the highest meritorious contributions to family and consumer sciences/career-technical education through active involvement in the professional organization, CATFACS or CACTE.

OR

To recognize an individual or agency outside the field of education that has contributed outstanding service and dedication in the promotion of family and consumer sciences education in Colorado and to CATFACS.

Outstanding Administrator

The CATFACS Outstanding Administrator Award is presented to an individual who is serving in an educational capacity which is directly or indirectly associated with FCS/career-technical education, and who has demonstrated outstanding service and dedication to FCS/career-technical education in Colorado.

Find the application on the
CATFACS Website:

[http://www.catfacs.org/
award-nominations](http://www.catfacs.org/award-nominations)

2017 CATFACS Winter Conference

Registration is now open!

Register before January 5, 2017 to receive the early-bird pricing.

Link: <http://www.rsvpbook.com/catfacs2017>

Tentative Conference Schedule

Thursday, January 26th

5:00pm Registration
Keynote Speaker, Ryan Judge, to follow

Friday, January 27th

9:00am FACS Update
9:45am-12:00pm Workshops
12:00pm-1:00pm Lunch
1:00pm-3:15pm Workshops
5:30pm-7:30pm Awards Dinner
7:30pm Social Activity

Saturday, January 28th

8:15am Business Meeting
9:30am-11:30am Closing Mini-PD Sessions

Hotel Accommodations

Make hotel reservations at Fort Collins Hilton Hotel by January 5, 2017.
The room rate is \$109 per night.

Link: http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/F/FNLCOHF-ACT-20170126/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

Top 7 Reasons to Attend a Professional Conference

1. Have fun!
2. Networking opportunities
3. Engage in energy of like-minded professionals
4. Break out of your comfort zone
5. New tools, tips, and tactics!
6. Professional development
7. Invest in yourself!

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The official
hashtag of the
2017 CATFACS
Winter
Conference
is...

#CATFACS2017

Include hashtags
on your social
media posts for
giveaways!

News from FCCLA

From Robert Van Dyke

Congratulations to all of Colorado FCCLA STAR Event participants from the following chapters who attending the FCCLA National Leadership Conference, July 3 – 8, in San Diego, CA: Akron, Arvada West, Bollman, Briggsdale, Centauri, Centaurus, Chaparral, Cheraw, Cherry Creek, Coronado, Eaton, Elizabeth, Grandview, Greeley West, Fruita Monument, Highlands Ranch, Holmes, Holyoke, Ignacio, Jefferson, Legacy, Merino, North Arvada, Northridge, Northglenn, Platte Valley, Ponderosa, Poudre, Rocky Mountain, Roosevelt, Sanford, Standley Lake, Trinidad, Windsor, and Wray. These chapters brought home 76 gold, 32 silver, and 12 bronze medals making Colorado proud.



National conference highlights included:

- Brooklynn Bracelin and Victoria Connor represented Colorado as a National Officer Candidates
- Victoria Connor was elected National 1st Vice President
- Regan Ashley of Elizabeth High School graduated from the Adviser Academy
- Samantha Archer of Roosevelt High School received the Adviser Mentor Award
- Denise “Kelly” Gauck of Holmes Middle School received the Master Adviser Award
- Arielle Bergmann of Chaparral High School received the Spirit of Advising Award
- Sanford High School’s Focus on Children team and Windsor High School’s Life Event Planning participant were recognized for receiving perfect scores
- Next-to perfect scores of 99 or better earned by the Chapter in Review Display team from Merino High School; the Chapter in Review Portfolio team from Roosevelt High School; the Digital Stories for Change team from Cherry Creek High School; and the Hospitality, Tourism, and Recreation participant from Grandview High School
- Robert Van Dyke, State Adviser, served as the Past Lead Coordinator for the National Competitive Events Advisory Team

**Say
Yes
to
FCS**

With the number of Family and Consumer Sciences teaching position openings the past several spring/summers, it was becoming more and more apparent that it is important to consider what we are doing to recruit others into the FCS teaching profession. As a result of the “need” for teachers, there has been a yearlong nationwide effort to recruit students into the profession.

It is exciting that we are getting the word out and more students are exploring FCS as a degree option. Keep up the great work of spreading the word about the true rewards of being a FCS teacher and FCCLA advisor. Thank you all for what you do!

#SayYesToFCS #FCSistheFuture

Chaparral Fashion Club Gives Back

From Arielle Bergmann

For the second year in a row, Chaparral Fashion Club was able to participate in Bella Boutique's annual fundraiser (<http://bellaboutiquedenver.org/>). Bella Boutique is a Non-profit organization that provides homecoming and prom dresses to students that cannot afford the whole homecoming or prom experiences. Last year they provided dresses and accessories to over 100 girls in the Denver metro and surrounding areas. This fundraiser allows them to purchase new dresses and also pay rent for their volunteer led store front.

This year we had 6 teams participate in the fundraiser. Students in Fashion Club worked together to take old ugly dresses and transform them into something new and fresh! These dresses were then judged by a panel of local designers for a special Student Design Competition, as well as have their final dresses auctioned off in a silent auction with the proceeds benefiting Bella Boutique.

This year Fashion Club raised almost \$1000 for the organization! Jisel Atencio won the Student design competition based on quality of construction, transformation of the dress, and appeal to the audience.

Group #1

Audrey Elliott
Justice Silva
Tia Tarka
Hannah Card (Model)

Group #2 Size 2

Darci Westrom
Stacy Levy
Diana Jones (Model)

Group #3 Size 2

Kayla Blair
Sydney Brown

Group #4 Size 8

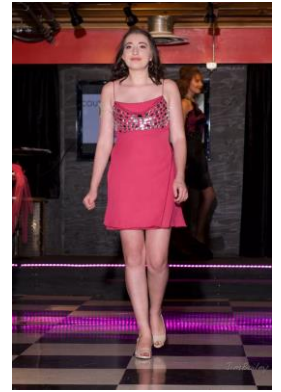
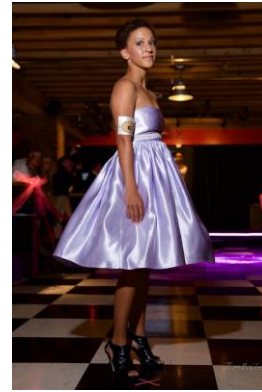
Damaria Moya (Model)
Gianna Tarka
Mila Thomas

Group #5

Giselle Atencio
Vivianna Huergo
Erica Becerra Morillo

Group #6

Grace Huber
Maria Zavaraas
Sydney Fisher
Morgan Loveland



Middle School News

Reds Serve is getting ready to wrap up their very busy 12-week course. They had a very successful Trimester providing helping hands to the community of Eaton. For those not familiar with Reds Serve it is a class that includes leadership projects and volunteer opportunities that serve the school and the surrounding community. This class is about being a person of integrity, a person who embodies Grit. During this school year, they have had the privilege of helping out Eaton Elementary, Animal Den, and the police department of Eaton with community trash clean up. They also hosted their annual Halloween Cake Pop bake sale earlier this week for the students of EMS and rose money for various organizations and charities.

Eaton FACS is also pleased to announce that it's Food and Nutrition classes are well on their way to mastering the important fundamental life skills of food preparation and healthy habits regarding wellness and exercise. When the Hexter is over this group of students will know how to make healthy meals that aid in a well-balanced diet. They have worked so hard and their enthusiasm for happier and healthier lives is inspiring. They have even started to bring their water bottles every day to class. Hats off to this group of students!

Teen Survival is moving right along seeing the entire 8th grade before they transition to high school. With the help of Weld Waits this class addresses healthy relationships and boundaries regarding dating. We also focus on the important changes and challenges faced by young teens today to help prepare them for dealing effectively in the many decisions they will make throughout their lives. The topics covered are self-esteem, body image, finance, decision making, goal setting, bullying, and peer pressure. Our goal is to give them as many tools as we can to put in their personal toolbox to carry with them throughout high school and adulthood.

It has been a wonderful year so far! We are incredibly grateful for our wonderful community and the opportunities we receive to give back!

Brittany Ore
Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher
Eaton Middle School, Eaton CO

CATFACS Legislative Update

From Laura Alsdorf

44 School districts in Colorado are asking for either a bond, mill levy or both – \$4.4 billion worth. Three seats on the State Board of Education are in play.

Check your ballot for local propositions and issues that may be unique to your area!

In regards to the Perkins Reauthorization, the best way you can help is by contacting your congressperson and both U.S. Senators. Tell them what's happening in your classroom. Make your views known!

Check out this article for more specifics on the reauthorization:

[Bill to Reauthorize Career and Technical Education Law Passed by U.S. House](#)

