

## **American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences Family & Consumer Sciences Public Policy Initiative**

### **BACKGROUND**

Public Policy is a vital component of programming for the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS). AAFCS' Strategic Direction, *Imagine*, includes the strategic priority -- ADVOCACY AND COLLABORATION -- to elevate the visibility and impact of Family and Consumer Sciences. A goal of AAFCS' advocacy and collaboration effort is to strengthen the public's understanding and appreciation of the Family and Consumer Sciences field and its impact on society. The desired results include

- AAFCS is recognized as the voice of Family and Consumer Sciences among policy/ decision makers, business and industry, and the public.
- Family and Consumer Sciences advocates influence policy on relevant issues.
- AAFCS resources are used to deliver consistent messaging in advocacy.

AAFCS is the Managing Partner of the Alliance for Family & Consumer Sciences. Founded in 2006, the Alliance for Family & Consumer Sciences is a coalition of 24 organizations representing academia, industry, professional associations, and honor societies leading family and consumer sciences efforts around the globe. The mission of the Alliance for Family & Consumer Sciences is to advance the profession by enhancing communication, developing leaders, and supporting public policy education and engagement. With this mission at its core, the Alliance reflects the benefits of allied organizations working collaboratively to influence regulations impacting the lives of individuals, families, and communities for enhanced relevance and reliance on the human sciences.

The list of Alliance for Family & Consumer Sciences partners can be found at <http://www.aafcs.org/AllianceforFCS/partners.html>.

### **CHALKLEY-FENN PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM**

The Chalkley-Fenn Public Policy Visiting Scholar Award was established in 1990 to honor Gladys Branegan Chalkley, president and treasurer of AAFCS from 1940-1942. Dr. Chalkley founded the Montana Affiliate of AAFCS, as well as the state's dietetic association and its chapter of the American Association of University Women. The scholarship is also funded by a gift from the estate of Geraldine G. Fenn, a South Dakota native who was an Extension 4-H Specialist in Montana. After retirement, Fenn spearheaded development of the Montana 4-H Foundation for Montana and served as a youth advocate at state and national levels. Today, it is supported by donations from AAFCS members who believe in public policy and the utility of civic engagement. It is awarded in even numbered years, depending on availability of funds.

#### **Duties and Responsibilities**

Responsibilities as a Public Policy Visiting Scholar have included:

- Monitoring legislation, regulations, and public policy movement;
- Interacting with Congressional staff, elected officials, and agency personnel and creating and/or participating in processes of civic engagement around designated policy concerns;
- Conducting technical and public policy research;

- Preparing documents and publications relating to public policy;
- Supporting current AAFCS public policy initiatives (See attached Request for Application);
- Preparing a written report for the designated AAFCS staff and appropriate AAFCS stakeholders; and.
- Continuing communication and collaboration with the Public Policy Community.

## **NEW PUBLIC POLICY INITIATIVE**

**The AAFCS Public Policy Community recommended, the Alliance for Family & Consumer Sciences leadership supported, and the AAFCS Board of Directors approved the Chalkley-Fenn Public Policy Visiting Scholar Award for 2018 as a Request for Applications (RFA) to develop a national level family & consumer sciences public policy initiative/event that**

- Provides public policy skills development for students and professionals,
- Allows students and professionals the opportunity to apply skills in affecting public policy, and
- Advances the public policy impact for family & consumer sciences.

**The 2018 Chalkley-Fenn Public Policy Initiative is designed to:**

- stimulate interest in public policy as it affects the family and consumer sciences profession.
- educate scholars in various aspects of policymaking.
- promote interaction with members of Congress and leaders of various family and consumer sciences-related organizations.

## **REQUEST FOR APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

### **Eligibility**

Applications may be submitted by a family and consumer sciences professional who:

- has a minimum of a baccalaureate degree in family and consumer sciences or related field and is working toward or supporting the vision and mission of AAFCS;
- has demonstrated leadership in AAFCS at the state and/or national level;
- makes a commitment to spend a designated period of time working in the Washington, D.C. area on public policy issues and liaisons with key contacts by electronic and other means when not in D.C.
- Current members of the AAFCS Board of Directors, Awards and Recognition Committee, and staff are not eligible for nomination.

### **Phase 1**

Applicants will provide a

- 1.) PLAN for gathering background information from Alliance for Family & Consumer Sciences partners on
  - FCS public-policy related needs and priorities
  - Current FCS public policy-related training/initiatives
- 2.) METHODOLOGY for analysis of FCS public policy related needs and priorities to determine the purpose/objectives of a national level FCS public policy initiative/event
- 3.) STRATEGY for identifying effective initiatives/events to impact public policy at the national level

## **Phase 2**

Upon completion of Phase 1, applicant will create a guide for marketing, implementing and evaluating a national level public policy initiative/event for family & consumer sciences students and professionals that provides: skills development, application to apply skills and advances the public policy impact for family & consumer sciences. (Note: skills and strategies should be applicable to state and local levels, as well.)

The guide will include:

- Objectives
- Measurable Outcomes
- Sample Agenda
- Resources (Human and Financial, including a budget)
- Location/logistics
- Audience
- Marketing Strategies
- Evaluation

### **REQUEST FOR APPLICATION TIMELINE**

- Applications Process Open – October 1, 2017
- Applications Due – January 8, 2018 to [awards@aafcs.org](mailto:awards@aafcs.org)
- Winning Applicant Selected, Notified and Announced – By May 1, 2018
- Scholar's Work begins as early as July 15, 2018 and no later than January 15, 2019
- Scholar's Work is completed 10 months after he/she begins