

AAFCS Announces a New Professional Certification: Certified Personal and Family Finance Educator

With the economic challenges facing individuals, families and communities, it has become evident that there is a great need and desire for personal and family finance education. Increasingly states are mandating these courses at the secondary level to help improve financial literacy and outcomes for future generations. More and more community-based organizations are also providing personal finance education for youth and adults. At the same time, it has become increasingly important for professionals to validate their knowledge and demonstrate ongoing professional development through certification programs. In response to the growing emphasis on financial literacy and the need to ensure that educators, regardless of practice setting or discipline of content background, are highly qualified to teach this subject, the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) is pleased to announce a national professional credential for personal and family finance educators.

Developed by National Financial Education Leaders for National Financial Education Leaders

AAFCS has engaged the assistance of a broad range of esteemed personal and family finance practitioners and educators from across the nation to assist in assessment development. AAFCS recognizes the value of a solid assessment tool in assuring that educators are effectively prepared for the role of teaching youth the knowledge and skills necessary for successful management of their personal and family finances. The AAFCS Personal and Family Finance Educator assessment and corresponding professional certification will serve to validate and document this necessary competency.

Supportive of National Competency Objectives

The Personal and Family Finance Educator assessment/certification will validate the knowledge and skills needed by educators to effectively teach personal finance education to America's youth and young adults. Specifically, the assessment will measure professional competence to teach content consistent with the United States Department of Treasury Financial Education Core Competencies and the *National Standards in K-12 Personal Finance Education* developed by the Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy.

Assessment and Certification Launch

In June 2011, the new certification will become part of AAFCS' well-established Professional Assessment and Certification Program. Becoming a Certified Personal and Family Finance Educator will distinguish professionals who have mastered this subject area. In order to achieve certification, candidates must hold a baccalaureate degree, pass the national certification competency examination assuring others of a threshold level of knowledge based on identified standards, and ascribe to the AAFCS Code of Ethics. To maintain certification, professionals must complete 75 professional development units (PDUs) during each three-year certification cycle, thus documenting maintenance and growth of professional competence.

The American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) national organization has a proud century-plus history of providing support and leadership for family and consumer sciences professionals and others involved in related activities. AAFCS has a well-established credentialing program that includes accreditation of university programs, national competency assessments and certifications at both the professional and pre-professional levels. AAFCS is committed to utilizing its resources and considerable grass roots network of members and other stakeholders to launch the new program with pre-professional assessments and certifications.

To learn more about the AAFCS Professional Assessment and Certification Program see www.aafcs.org/certification or email certification@aafcs.org.

