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American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Announces Development of National Competency Assessment in Education Fundamentals

A recent Bureau of Labor Statistics report identified education as one of only two areas experiencing job growth in the current economic recession. With increasing enrollments in schools and community-based programs and the continuing national emphasis on quality education at the elementary, middle, secondary, and post-secondary levels, the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) announces the development of a national standards-based competency assessment measuring knowledge and skills associated with Education Fundamentals. The assessment is aligned with relevant content standards, the National Career Clusters Initiative, and the National Standards for Family and Consumer Sciences Education.

Adhering to gold standards for effective testing, the computer-based assessment provides a mechanism for competency measurement, program accountability, and program improvement. Successful testing will qualify individuals for recognition and documentation through a corresponding pre-professional certification in Education Fundamentals. The assessment and certification will address a skill set necessary to prepare individuals for employment in entry-level positions and to promote continuing education at the post-secondary level preparing for careers in education, training, and administration. The assessment has application in a broad range of education, community, and employer-based programs and settings.

Developed by National Education Leaders and Professionals

AAFCS has engaged the assistance of a broad range of esteemed education leaders and professionals from across the nation to assist in identifying relevant industry standards and to develop the assessment instrument. Recognizing the value of a solid assessment tool in assuring that programs are effectively preparing individuals with the fundamental knowledge and skills necessary for careers in education, the following stakeholders participated on the development panel for the assessment and certification:

- David Cordts, National Association of Secondary School Principals, Reston, VA
- Wanda Fox, TeachSharp, LLC, West Lafayette, IN
- Carol Riley, National Association of Elementary School Principals, Reston, VA
- Marcia J. Ritter, Educational Consultant, Lee's Summit, MO
- Jody Shelton, American Association of School Personnel Administrators, Overland Park, KS
- Faye Snodgrass, Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education, Indianapolis, IN
- Pat Stanley, U.S. Department of Education (Retired), The Villages, FL
- Jan Struebing, National Career Academy Coalition, Springdale, AR
- Marcella Wine-Snyder, Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, & Advancement, Rock Hill, SC
- Ginny Ellington, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY
- Bonnie James, Notre Dame College, South Euclid, OH
- Susan Roark, Nicholls State University, Thibodaux, LA
- Tamara Lane, Siloam Springs High School, Siloam Springs, AR
- Deborah J. Nelson, Alameda High School, Lakewood, CO

Assessment Launch and Further Information

The Education Fundamentals assessment and certification is part of a portfolio of pre-professional level assessment and industry-recognized certification products currently under development by AAFCS and will be available for use during 2009-10. For further information please contact: Lori Myers; Director of Pre-Professional Assessment and Certification; 703-706-4600; LMyers@aafcs.org; www.aafcs.org.

The American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) national organization has a proud 100-year history of providing support and leadership for family and consumer sciences professionals. AAFCS has a well-established credentialing program that includes accreditation of university programs, professional level assessments, and certification of professionals as Certified in Family and Consumer Sciences (CFCS). AAFCS is committed to utilizing its resources and considerable grass roots network of members and other stakeholders to launch the pre-professional assessments and certifications.

