

American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Announces Development of National Competency Assessment for Interior Design Fundamentals

Based on the importance of living and working in residential and commercial spaces that are functional, healthy, safe, and aesthetically pleasing and the renewed emphasis on sustainable design principles, there is an increased demand for interior designers and their services. In fact, job growth in interior design is expected to occur faster than average over the next few years. Thus, the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) announces the development of a national standards-based competency assessment measuring knowledge and skills associated with interior design. 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. The assessment has application in a broad range of education and employment settings. It is anticipated that this assessment and certification would promote continued and advanced education at the post-secondary level to prepare for careers associated with residential and commercial interiors, furnishings, and design.

Developed by National Interior Design Professionals and Educators

AAFCS has engaged the assistance of a broad range of esteemed interior design professionals and educators 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 appropriate fundamental knowledge and skills of interior design concepts, the following stakeholders participated on the development panel for the assessment and certification:

- Penny Bonda, *Interior Design Magazine* and United States Green Building Council, Washington, DC
- Rosalyn Cama, CAMA, Inc., New Haven, CT
- Sherylin Doyle, National Kitchen and Bath Association, Hackettstown, NJ
- Doug Hartsell, Duralee, Washington, DC
- Lisa Henry, Knoll, Castle Rock, CO
- Charisse Johnston, Gensler, Inc., Los Angeles, CA
- Josh Sloan, Waring and Company, Denver, CO
- Robert Wright, Bast/Wright Interiors, San Diego, CA
- Stephanie Clemons, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO
- Patricia Hollender, Arapahoe Community College, Littleton, CO
- Christy Somerville, University of New Haven, New Haven, CT
- Deborah Griffin, Lexington High School, Lexington, SC
- Cynthia Ziemba, HSE High School, Fishers, IN

Assessment Launch and Further Information

The Interior Design 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.

