

TEACHER OF THE YEAR TIPS & TOOLS

For
Affiliates, Applicants, Award Recipients



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Assistance also provided by **Nancy Malafotopoulos**, 2010 AAFCS National Teacher of the Year

The guide will be posted electronically on the AAFCS website
and will be updated as needed on a periodic basis.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR TIPS & TOOLS

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 - Serving as a Juror
 - AAFCS/FCS Media Tool Kit
Posted in our members only section of the website
<http://www.aafcs.org/mediakit/value.asp>

1. Introduction:

The Teacher of the Year Award began in 1974 to recognize not only the valuable contributions made by Family and Consumer Sciences Educators but to honor the innovative and cutting edge curriculum developed by these educators to meet the diverse and fluid needs of secondary students in their own communities while maintaining adherence to State and National Standards and including connections to current pieces of educational reform. These educators are truly the front line and are the most highly visible representatives of Family and Consumer Sciences the world over.

Assisting affiliates, future candidates and award recipients for this prestigious honor will help to increase the number of applicants and thus exponentially enhance the visibility of the outstanding Family and Consumer Sciences programs k-12 nationwide and the importance of Family and Consumer Sciences education. To this end, the ***TEACHER OF THE YEAR TIPS & TOOLS for Affiliates, Applicants, and Award Recipients***, has been created and will be updated periodically.

This comprehensive, up-to-the minute guide electronic guide was developed by an AAFCS Task Force composed of former National Teachers of the Year, former Top Ten, Merit, and Affiliate Teachers of the Year, current and former Awards Committee Members, and current and former ESAE Community Officers. We are also honored to have a representative from our corporate sponsor, Goodheart-Willcox, willing to assist us with this endeavor.

This guide will be available to the membership on the AAFCS website, www.aafcs.org. It will be updated periodically by the ESAE Community to remain current with professional practice.

2. AFFILIATE GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS PROGRAM

WHY

Reasons Your Affiliate Should Submit Candidates for AAFCS Teacher of the Year (T.O.Y):

- It is recognized as one of AAFCS' most visible awards.
- It brings recognition to the teacher, school, school district, community, state and YOUR affiliate.
- It showcases FCS work in your state and communities, school district, and school.
- It recognizes the exceptional and innovative Family and Consumer Sciences programs created by members who are teachers.
- It strengthens your Affiliate.
- It promotes loyalty and pride within your membership.
- It costs your affiliate little or nothing.
- It may lead to awards from other entities and some of those may not have many applicants.

HOW

- Distribute the Teacher of the Year (T.O.Y.) brochure. Contact ESAE if you have difficulties locating it.
- Post the benefits of being recognized as the T.O.Y Affiliate on your Affiliate website and/or newsletter. Refer to **WHY** (above) and the current Teacher of the Year brochure in this guide.
- Design your Affiliate T.O.Y. application to be an abbreviated version of the National T.O.Y application.
- Post your Affiliate's T.O.Y. application on your affiliate website at least six months prior to Affiliate deadline.
- Start your candidate search sooner versus later.
- Choose your Affiliate T.O.Y. 6 months to a year **before** the AAFCS T.O.Y. Application deadline (usually in January) to give them ample time to prepare.
- Don't wait for applications to be posted to have your nominee begin their work. After your nominee is chosen, have her/him begin to gather materials and prepare rough drafts using the available guidelines. When the newest guidelines are posted your candidate will have a basis from which to complete the application.
- Develop a mentor network of previous T.O.Y. nominees and winners within your affiliate.
- Seek the assistance of T.O.Y. mentors listed on the national mentor list.

- Encourage members of your affiliate to become jurors so they become familiar with the awards process and share the information with you and your members.
- Pass relevant T.O.Y. materials & records to your current Affiliate Awards Chair, as well as the affiliate president's successor.
- Encourage your nominee to read this entire guide and use it as a reference.
- Be sure your nominee reads the National Guidelines and Criteria carefully and adheres to ALL the requirements, directions and deadlines. Failure to do so will result in a lower national ranking.

SUPPORT YOUR CANDIDATES

- Provide financial support when possible.
- Make sure the Affiliate T.O.Y. knows the value of being recognized.
- Honor your nominee at the Affiliate level.
- Seek publicity for your candidate through local and state media outlets.
- Post an article with photos about your Affiliate T.O.Y recipient on your Affiliate Website. Include this information in your Affiliate newsletter.
- Create/distribute press release about Affiliate T.O.Y
- Seek publicity again if your nominee is a National or Merit Award Recipient.
- Assist by rechecking national requirements, criteria and deadlines.
- Keep copies of your affiliate's T.O.Y. applications to use as guides for future nominees.
- Make sure the Affiliate T.O.Y. is familiar with the AAFCS National Conference events in which they are expected to participate.

3. BEFORE YOU APPLY FOR AN AWARD

It is important to keep files, both electronic and paper, of all your accomplishments so that when awards, grants and even career positions become available you will be prepared to pull information as needed in a short time and copy/paste to most applications. This will also help you avoid “reinventing the wheel” since many applications require similar information.

Also refer to

- *Keeping Track of Your Professional Records*
- *Professional Recognition: Tips on Applying*
- *The one page FCS Fact Sheet*

WHY Should You Apply for Awards?

- Be recognized for your accomplishments and bring visibility to the field.
- Showcase FCS work
- Affirm your efforts
- Little or no cost involved
- You have nothing to lose
- Many awards have few applicants

WHEN?

- Always be on the lookout for available awards.
- Check specific deadlines very carefully!

Develop a “winner” mentality

- Think positively...yes, you are good enough to be a winner!
- Check out a variety of awards applications for criteria. How well do you measure up?
- Check all awards criteria to see those for which you might be eligible.
- Check for awards outside of AAFCS for which you might also be eligible.
- Apply for numerous awards...the more awards you apply for, the better your chances are for winning an award.
- Try again if at first you don't succeed!
- Volunteer to be a juror or to be on the awards committee.

Display Professional Demeanor

- Maintain professional memberships within and outside the profession.
- Volunteer to serve on committees. Better yet, volunteer to lead them!
- Act and dress professionally.
- Show pride in your profession.
- Carry business cards.
- Be sure to cite your credentials and degrees.

- Develop and maintain a current résumé, vitae, and bio.
- Create your own website.
- Develop elevator speeches for your program and FCS.
- Pay attention to the appearance, spelling and grammar of any document you produce.

Develop Partnerships

- Business and community connections and involvement will enhance your program
- Partner with and involve parents

Be on the Cutting Edge

- Utilize technology such as teacher and student developed websites, and social media.
- Keep a statistics file of family and consumer sciences related issues.
- Apply for grants

Seek Media Attention for Your Work

- Become familiar with your state and local media contacts.
- Utilize the AAFCS/FCS Media Tool Kit.
- Develop press releases and a press kit. Involve your students in the process.
- Utilize the FCS Fact Sheets as needed

Seek Assistance as Needed

- Network and learn.
- Seek the guidance of mentors.
- Learn from award winners—*observe, ask, emulate*.
- Look at other successful applications.
- Have a qualified person with strong writing and editing skills proofread anything you produce and distribute.

4. PREPARING AND SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION

Read over “***Before You Apply for an Award***” to help you get started. Remember that the application is now filed electronically, thus making it easier to copy/paste information from any of your existing documents and making it easier for jurors to score.

Following Directions:

- Be sure you are using the current year’s application form. It can be found on www.aafcs.org under the “Recognition” tab. Nomination guidelines and evaluation criteria are also found at this location, along with the URL to the online awards submission site.
- You will need to enter a user name and password different from your AAFCS Membership login when you first go to the awards submission site.
- Enter your name EXACTLY as it is listed in your membership information to avoid delays and confusion.
- Be sure to follow ALL directions and comply with ALL requirements. Failure to do so will result in a lower national ranking.
- Comply with the specific directions on the application with regard to word and page limitations.
- Pay CAREFUL attention to ALL the requirements with regard to online filing.
- Check to make sure the computer you are using has the appropriate specifications for the application and attachments. If you have questions, call the AAFCS office for further instructions: 703-706-4600.

Following the Criteria:

- Read the Evaluation Criteria/Guidelines that show the point system used to evaluate your program nomination.
- Utilize the bullets under each criterion to complete the description of your program.
- Address each section to the fullest.

Gathering Information:

- Organize items such as photos and news articles to support your application.
- Identify whom you will contact to write letters of recommendation for your program. Contact these people right away so that you aren’t waiting for the letters too close to the deadline. If possible, have those letters sent to you electronically.
- Ask for more than the required number of letters of recommendation. You can quote, within your narrative, from the letters you do not use.
- Remember that you will need to have a letter of support from your Affiliate President.

Meeting Deadlines:

- Be sure to adhere strictly to the formal, published deadlines.
- Pace yourself so that you can complete the nomination in a timely fashion.

Proving the success of your program:

- Clearly show documented results re: enrollment increases, club activities, grants received, etc., using examples of assessments, if possible.
- Use factual information to back up your descriptions. For example, cite the % increases in enrollment gained by your program.
- Illustrate WHY your program is on the cutting edge. For example, cite the way it complies, or is connected, to the latest pieces of educational reform and/or standards.

Proofreading:

- Read and re-read! A professionally presented application is a must!
- Pay attention to the appearance, spelling and grammar.
- Obtain proofreading assistance from more than one person. It is suggested to select those who have successfully won awards, have previously judged awards, and have excellent editing skills.
- Choose help from someone outside our field to assist with this as well as those within the field.
- **Failure to proofread carefully to make sure you have followed directions, complied with requirements, presented a professional looking and sounding application free of errors, will result in a lower national ranking.**

Other Tips:

- View applications of previous winners and nominees; however, realize that some may not be perfect and that formatting may have changed over the years.

5. YOU ARE AN AFFILIATE, MERIT OR NATIONAL AWARD RECIPIENT...NOW WHAT?

AFFILIATE TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Remember that the national application is now filed electronically, thus making it easier to copy/paste from any of your existing documents. Electronic filing also makes it easier for jurors to score.

To Do Immediately:

- Copy and save to your computer the *current year's* application. This can be found at www.aafcs.org under the "Recognition" tab. Nomination guidelines and evaluation criteria are also found at this location, along with the URL to the online awards submission site. This will help you get an immediate start on preparing your submission.
- Study the Evaluation Criteria/Guidelines which show the point system used to evaluate your program.
- Use these evaluation criteria to decide on those items in your program that you can enhance before national submission.
- Prepare and submit press release to local papers announcing your being chosen as an Affiliate Teacher of the Year and invite the state and local media to your classroom. Check with appropriate school authorities about required procedures.
- Review photos of your class and choose those that will best showcase your program. Be sure you have parents' and the photographer's permission to use them.
- Have a professional looking head shot photograph taken to send to AAFCS in digital form for publicity purposes. Obtain, complete and return to AAFCS their current form that gives them permission to utilize your photos. In the case of professional photographs, you will need to get the photographer's permission for their use and also submit a copy of this permission to AAFCS.
- Contact your state affiliate to find a mentor and proof readers to help you through the application process. You can also contact the ESAE Community to help find a mentor.
- Begin to prepare your presentation for Curriculum Showcase at the AAFCS convention. Contact the ESAE community for more information.
- Register and attend the AAFCS convention.
- Also refer to the information provided in this guide entitled ***Preparing and Submitting Your Awards Application.***

Volunteering for ESAE or AAFCS in general is a great way to show your appreciation for receiving this honor.

FOR AFFILIATE, MERIT FINALISTS AND NATIONAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

Acronym usage:

- The acronym T.O.Y. is often used for Teacher of the Year, but please do not refer to it as the “TOY” award. You are either the (your state name) Affiliate, AAFCS Merit or AAFCS National Teacher of the Year.
- ESAE is the acronym for the Elementary, Secondary and Adult Education Community. Please do not mix up the letters when using this acronym.

The AAFCS/FCS Media Tool Kit: Be sure to use this valuable resource found on the AAFCS website. <http://www.aafcs.org/mediakit/value.asp> It includes a number of tools that will help you clearly and consistently communicate the value of AAFCS membership and family and consumer sciences. The Tool Kit consists of an introduction and overview of how to use the material, key message training, a section on understanding and working with the media, and a variety of press release templates. In addition, there is a section that is especially helpful for teachers of the year. Although geared toward the media, the materials can also be used with stakeholders and decision makers concerning family and consumer sciences programs. It is a great resource for all to use!

Before the Annual Conference:

- Assemble or revise your information for the media. Call AAFCS for assistance if needed.
- Register for conference. You will receive the early bird price even if you are notified of the status of your award after the deadline.
- Book your hotel and flight.
- Submit your application for Curriculum Showcase to ESAE. You will have a table to showcase your program at this event. You will also need to have about 150 copies of any of your handouts. Be sure to also include your professional contact information.
- You will make many contacts during the ESAE Curriculum Showcase. Be sure to bring a sign up sheet and a container to hold business cards for attendees.
- Purchase tickets to the Elementary, Secondary, and Adult Education (ESAE) Community T.O.Y. Honors Luncheon for your family if they are attending the conference. Your ticket cost will be covered by our sponsor. Contact AAFCS for instructions on how the latter will be handled before you register for the conference.

At the Annual Conference:

- Compile the list of events you are expected to attend and bring it to the conference for a quick reference.
- Bring a flash drive to share or receive important information.

- Bringing a computer if possible, might also be helpful.
- Professional attire is appropriate for most events. You will be photographed many times so be sure to choose colors and styles that are most flattering to you and remember to keep smiling! Low heeled, very comfortable shoes are the best choice since you will have quite a bit of walking throughout the conference.
- You will sit as a group near the front of the ballroom during the Opening General Session.
- The Pacesetter Dinner, held the final evening, will be the most formal event and requires the purchase of a ticket. The National and Merit Award Recipients will also be guests at the All Star Reception held immediately prior to the Pacesetter Dinner. A dressy outfit is suitable for these events.
- Bring business cards and thank you notes with you.
- Write notes on the back of any business cards you receive as to where you met the person along with a few pieces of key information such as why the connection is important and what each of you may have agreed to.
- Be sure to personally thank the award sponsors and follow up with a written note to them.

MERIT FINALISTS FOR TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Those that apply to Merit Finalists are indicated below with the letter **(M)**

NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Before the Conference:

- AAFCS staff will contact you for information to include in your press kit (press release, bio, and the Teacher of the Year backgrounder).
- The staff may also request photos of you with two or three of your students. Be sure to obtain parents' permission to use them and that AAFCS has a copy of this.
- You may also need to prepare a 3 to 5 minute presentation, sometimes in the form of a Power Point, for the Opening General Session. It will need to be submitted to AAFCS sometime in May. *Note: this varies from time to time.*
- You will be asked to deliver a five minute speech about your program for the ESAE T.O.Y. luncheon.
- Find out who will introduce you at the ESAE TOY luncheon and email them some information about you and your program.

At the Conference

- You will be given assigned seating in the front row at the Opening General Session near the AAFCS Board of Directors and a representative of Goodheart-Willcox, the Teacher of the Year sponsor. You have the opportunity to meet the representative before the session begins.
- You will be introduced as the AAFCS National Teacher of the Year at this general Session and will receive your plaque and monetary award at this time.

This is when you also be asked to make the aforementioned 3 to 5 minute presentation.

- Goodheart-Willcox often invites the top winners and a guest of their choice to their author's dinner. It is usually held at an elegant restaurant requiring cocktail hour attire. **(M)**
- You will be a guest at the All Star Reception before Pacesetter Banquet. Note: You will need to purchase a ticket if you plan on attending the Pacesetter.
- Plan your time in between session with the awareness that it will take awhile for you to walk down the hallways. Many attendees will want to talk and be photographed with you. **(M)**
- Make an effort to connect with former AAFCS National Teachers of the Year for some pointers.
- You may be invited to speak at various conferences and events. In most cases your travel expenses will be covered by those who invite you. In some cases you may either receive an honorarium or be asked the amount of your fee. You will need to ask others to determine an appropriate rate. **(M)**
- Collect your conference receipts to submit to AAFCS for reimbursement up to the maximum given by AAFCS.

6. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM FORMER AAFCS NATIONAL TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Lois Lewis 2012 AAFCS Teacher of the Year

What opportunities did receiving this honor present?

Being interviewed in a national professional magazine (Techniques), contributing to a story in the Cincinnati Enquirer, giving a presentation over ITV to Purdue students, being nominated for Minnesota Teacher of the Year--representing my region, receiving lesson plan writing offers from national companies, presenting my program at UW-Stout, the regional MN FACS meeting and our state Minnesota FACS conference, etc. I have not charged a fee for presenting my program, but I was not asked to pay a registration fee for the UW-Stout conference, I believe.

How you can maximize the impact of the award to promote FCS at home?

I have been able to spread the word about Family and Consumer Sciences to the point that may have convinced other schools in the area to keep their FCS programs. Teachers at these schools have since become involved in our state organization, when in the past, they were not. I don't know this for a fact, but I like to feel that the publicity, surrounding my award and our school, had enough impact to make a difference. I know that in several cases I may have convinced teachers to attend conferences they may not have attended before.

How giving back to the Association is a nice way of saying thank you for the honor:

I am big on volunteering and being involved, so I accepted the role of incoming ESAE Chair as a way to learn more about our organization and to contribute whatever I could to make it a beneficial professional connection for others

How did you feel when you received the merit or national award?

The most exciting thing was to think that something small that I started at the local level was actually chosen to represent my professional organization nationally!

What frustrated you the most?

The application process, in its first year of being online, was the most frustrating part. Narrowing the content, especially the program narrative, to the recommended number of pages, was also quite challenging, but it also was a learning experience and a way to analyze my program even further

What was most exciting?

I think it was so exciting to be notified that I was the national winner--I could hardly believe it! I would have also liked a personal phone call from an association leader, but it was still a great experience. The other exciting thing was to have the opportunity to

Speak about my program at the national conference. It was something I would never have imagined happening to me!

What did the year look like after you won the award?

As indicated previously, it was very busy. I was feted at an awards night reception at my school, and the local papers gave me front page coverage for my award. My affiliate was also very supportive and promoted my award through their newsletter and at various meetings.

How did being an award recipient change your life?

The award changed my life because I think people finally began to take FCS seriously and the fact that what I am doing was recognized nationally. One person told my husband that the award "really was a big deal." I thought it interesting that he actually felt he had to check it out on the website to verify that my professional award had teeth to it! It just shows how some people look at FCS and how important it is that we try to change that perception. Also, many people in the local area have congratulated me and I received some notes of appreciation from colleagues, students, and friends. All this really lifted my spirits!

Nancy Malfatopoulos 2010 AAFCS Teacher of the Year

What opportunities did this award present?

It presented the opportunity for national recognition, for being recognized by my school administration, for being asked to present my program at some AAFCS Affiliate Conferences, and for receiving newspaper coverage and TV coverage that also included my students.

My National Teacher of the Year Plaque hangs on the wall in the school library and as a result a faculty recognition wall was developed.

How did you maximize the impact of the award to promote FCS at the local level?

When I was recognized at our Board of Education meeting, I spoke very highly about our program and FCS. It gave positive recognition to the program and curriculum, as well as a great boost to the FCS department. Students also took pride in, as well as ownership of the award.

How are you giving back to the association?

I made myself available to give workshops at other state association meetings and always speak highly of AAFCS in the media and on TV

How did you feel when you won the national award?

- *I felt extremely honored*
- *I was in disbelief*
- *I was looking forward to the national convention to meet the Merit Award Recipients who were also from New England!*

Did anyone help you in preparing the paperwork for the national award?

I did most of the work on my own. At the end, I reached out to my Association for feedback, and corrections

What does a year look like as National Teacher of the Year?

- *Being available for many interviews, including segments on TV*
- *Speaking engagements, such as fall and spring conferences*
- *Corresponding to many emails*
- *Meeting very dynamic people within the association*
- *Being very busy!!*

Becky Newell, 1999 AAFCS Teacher of the Year

What opportunities did receiving this honor present, such as being asked to present your program? Do you charge a fee, if so how much?

I have spoken multiple times in Indiana and in three other states. I have been paid expenses. Usually some amount was offered and when this occurred, I did not quibble about the amount.

I think the award also led to my three year service at Purdue University when I filled in for the Department Chair for one year and taught methods classes for three years after retirement from public school. I'm sure the award led to the local Chamber of Commerce Golden Apple Award. It may have had some bearing on the Leader Award which I received in 2008.

How you can maximize the impact of the award to promote FCS at home?

This really puts the profession in the forefront if properly utilized. In my community, FCS was spotlighted many times. I lived in a mostly rural area where FCS was a way of life.

How giving back to the association (ESAE role, committees, communities, etc., by volunteering is a nice way to say thank you for receiving the award.

Though I was very active before the award, receiving it put me beyond the state level and onto the national platform that included ESAE involvement, curriculum showcase presentations, etc. I also became an Associate Editor of the AAFCS Journal for three years, served on the Journal Editor Search Committee and the Awards Committee as a chair of four selection subcommittees in four years. I was also a member of an Annual Conference Task Force.

How did you feel when you received the merit or national award? What frustrated you the most? What was most exciting?

I do not recall any frustrations. The criteria and process were posted very early (the June of the previous year), deadlines were succinct, and notification was most timely. The AAFCS president called me at my home. I was truly surprised about winning because my very close friend, Elle Keppler, won the previous year. I did not expect back to back selections from the same state.

What did the year look like after you won the award?

See above. It led to a lot more work which I was very happy to do then and now as well. I was named Purdue University College of Consumer and Family Distinguished Alumni. I also served in the Indiana Dept of Ed. FCS Teacher Educator Council. I also sponsored the Purdue Univ. Student Unit--3 years—and had 2 National Student Unit Officers during that time.

Marilyn Swierk 1993 AAFCS Teacher of the Year**Who help you prepare the awards application?**

I perused applications of former candidates to get an idea of what was expected. I then prepared the application myself and followed the directions VERY carefully. I developed headers to align with the evaluation criteria in order to write a more organized narrative of my program. I also asked several people to proofread my application as well.

When my application was ½ done we lost electrical power and thus I lost all my work. I was ready to give up but my husband urged me to get some rest and start again...and the rest is history!

What opportunities did receiving this honor present?

I am so grateful for the many exciting opportunities presented to me since receiving this award. It has led to an exciting second career in speaking, writing, and consulting! I have presented keynotes and breakout sessions locally, nationally and internationally for professional and student organizations, both FCS and non FCS related universities, school districts, research teams and others. I think I have presented in almost every state in the US with the exception of about seven and I especially enjoy speaking to our affiliates. It is so rewarding to see the dedication they possess for our field and organization. I presented in London, England and last spring I had the honor of speaking to, and consulting with, our FCS colleagues in Japan.

I have also written or been featured in local and national magazine articles, contributed to textbooks, written several guides and created FCS related promotional items such as tee shirts, tote bags and posters.

I have been presented with other AAFCS honors such as AAFCS Leader, Commemorative Lecture and Business Entrepreneur of the Year as well as honors from other local, state and national associations and organizations. A scholarship was bestowed in my name by, the University of Rhode Island, and I also received citations from the Rhode Island Department of Education, the Governor, and the Rhode Island House and Senate.

How you can maximize the impact of the award to promote FCS at home?

As a winner of this award you are given a platform to present not only your program but your Association and profession as well. I believe that the title gives you the stepping stone and then it is up to you to prepare yourself to present the above in the most positive way possible. It is especially powerful to be able to enlighten non FCS groups. You become a salesman for family and consumer sciences and you need to let your pride and passion show...it's catchy!

How giving back to the association (ESAE role, committees, communities, etc., by volunteering is a nice way to say thank you for receiving the award.

I felt the need to show my appreciation for receiving this honor so I began by becoming a juror for Teacher of the year which led to chairing the AAFCS Awards Committee. This led to other committee work, leading a national task force on early brain development, becoming Chair of ESAE, twice being elected to the AAFCS Board of Directors and ultimately becoming one of the few FCS teachers to become a national AAFCS president. This was made all the more exciting since it happened during the AAFCS' 100th Anniversary Centennial Celebration. I am still very involved to this day and it has helped me grow so much professionally and as a person. It has enriched my life because of the many friendships that have developed as a result. I have been involved in leadership roles in other local and national organizations as well. This was another great way to promote FCS!

How did you feel when you received the merit or national award? *I kept thinking it was a dream. It was one of the most exciting things that has ever happened to me and knowing how proud my family, friends, affiliate and students were was the frosting on the cake!*

What frustrated you the most? *Trying to juggle speaking engagements with a full department head/teaching load.*

What did the year look like after you won the award? *It was like a merry-go-round that never stopped and it has lasted for many years. There were so many opportunities such as interviews with the news media in print, radio and TV, and being featured in professional magazine and videos. The most exciting were being interviewed for Woman's Day Magazine that resulted in many hits on the AAFCS website, being in a national parenting video directed by the former creator/producer of Masterpiece Theater, and having an article that I wrote for the Points of Light Foundation published on a page opposite Ariana Huffington!!*

How did being an award recipient change your life? *I think the above explains it all. I retired from teaching early because of all the opportunities that were presented to me and as mentioned above, I began a second career that I still embrace today!*

7. HELPFUL TOOLS

- The AAFCS Teacher of the Year Backgrounder
- Current Teacher of the Year Brochure
- Keeping Track of Your Professional Records
- Professional Recognition: Applying for Awards
- A one page Family and Consumer Sciences Fact Sheet
(*other fact sheets are available in the AAFCS/FCS Tool Kit*)
- Serving as a Juror
- AAFCS/FCS Media Tool Kit
Posted in our members only section of the website
<http://www.aafcs.org/mediakit/value.asp>