

Greetings from your President: Pam Simpson

Fall has flown by and winter is approaching. The tension and division we're currently experiencing in our society is challenging. There are continued attacks on SNAP, ICE and Immigration; the reversing safeguards on our health, the environment, and economy all of which may make us feel overwhelmed. It's time to dig deep, look from within and find that spark of light from the "Betty Lamp" inside us. Help it to shine light on hope and solutions to support ourselves and others in our classrooms, schools, communities, wherever we may reach out to others. ORAFCS encourages you to build on the resources you already have, and add additional ones that support "lighting" your efforts. The fall conference presented some ideas, and we have included more in this newsletter.

Conference Highlights

Thanks to all that attended Oct. 3rd in Salem. It was wonderful to connect and share with over 20 attendees, current and retired teachers along with the guest speakers from various organizations.

Speaker Highlights:

- Dr. Cara Simmons, CFCS President Elect from AAFCS
- Johnie Ferro, ODE; [Career Cluster restructuring](#)
- Mary Jo Kohl, FCCLA Rebranding
- Brenda Broadbent, [AAFCS Advocacy](#)
- Sara Wright, Julianne Standish, and Molly Moriarty Russell, [OSU FACS programs](#)
- Oscar Juarez, Literacy in the FACS classroom
- Jennifer Blaloch, [Explore.Act.Tell.](#)

Learning and Connecting Highlights:

- Our history and what's yours?- Pam Simpson
- Story Stretchers- Elizabeth Christensen
- Apparel upcycling and class projects- Brenda Broadbent
- Steam in the ECE classroom- Oscar Juarez
- Olive oil tasting- Krista Carpino

Award Recipients



Distinguished Service Award: Tisha Richmond has been involved in Family & Consumer Sciences for over 30 years. She is presently a Culinary Arts instructor at North Medford High School, Canva Learning consultant, podcast host and author of the book, *Make Learning Magical* and co- author of the children's book *Dragon Smart* with her son Tommy. She has been the recipient of district and national awards for her work with Family & Consumer Sciences education and continues to connect with educators across the globe to empower 21st century learning.

Teacher of the Year: Lora Wells began her involvement with her commitment to AAFCS as a college student at Purdue University in Indiana. Moving to Oregon, she enhanced the culinary program at Westview High School for 15 years and was transferred to open the Mountainside High School program 8 years ago; she serves as CTE department chair. Lora served on the Leadership Cadre as we transitioned to FACS, and has been a SkillsUSA advisor helping students prepare to compete, along with ProStart, over the years. Lora is serving, once again, on the ORAFCS board.

**The 2026 ORAFCS
Grant Application
is now open!**

[Apply here](#) by Jan. 30.





Conference Fun



FACS Advocacy Action

Your ORAFCS board voted to advocate for food insecurity and nutrition this year. In November we approved sending the Oregon Food Bank a donation from part of the profits from this year's conference. The government shutdown and the halt of funding for the SNAP program called us into action.

What action can you take to advocate for FACS?

1. Address food insecurity by using [resources from Explore.Act.Tell](#), and develop a project with your students. Complete with lesson plans and help to get started.
2. Put up a poster you won from the door prizes and use it in a lesson plan
3. Visit the [AAFCS Advocacy site](#) and review the Economic Impact Industry Report. Request permission to use it from AAFCS and share it with students, administrator, parents, community, and legislators
4. [Become an AAFCS member](#) or renew your AAFCS membership. A percentage of it comes back to ORAFCS helping us cover expenses.
5. Free Financial Literacy resources. Full units and connections to Student Leadership competitions. Checkout [Everfi](#).
6. [Schedule a field trip](#), or request a visit from Oregon State University to see the College of Education and the College of Health.

Honoring Jennell Ives



During the summer of 2021, ORAFCS and OSU reached out to ODE and asked for more visibility of FACS on their website. Jennell Ives was happy to work with us, stated her mother was a Home Economist, and knew the importance of our profession. Read more about Jennell and her legacy [here](#).

AAFCS Annual Conference

Early Bird Registration

is open! Talk to your administration and regional coordinator about using Perkins funds to attend!

