

NATFACS Spring 2013 Newsletter

Greetings!

As Legislative Chair of NATFACS, it is my goal to be your voice of advocacy for our programs! I am a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher of 6 years, and am just as passionate about the profession as you are! I want to say thank you for the difference you make in our students lives, you are awesome!!

In attending the NATFACS Policy and Planning meeting in Salt Lake City, UT this past April, I learned more about the legislative process and how we can get involved. With this, I encourage each of you to become involved in your local and national legislative processes. A few ideas to help get your local legislators involved are to invite them to visit your classrooms, sponsor a "Legislators Day" where your students showcase your programs, and send them periodic updates on successes and projects.

The biggest advocates for our programs are YOU and your students! Becoming involved and encouraging advocacy projects at the local level are a great way to help ensure the sustainability and future of Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) and Career and Technical Education (CTE). When legislators can see the effects our programs and their undeniable impact, they are more equipped to make decisions in favor of CTE. In addition, your membership in your professional organization sends an outward message of your commitment to FACS and CTE.

Membership in ACTE and NATFACS grants you access to a multitude of resources, including advocacy tools and templates. Please visit the ACTE (<https://www.acteonline.org/>) and NATFACS (<http://www.natfacs.org/>) websites for more information on how to join and current trends in the field.

Again, I thank you for allowing me to advocate for YOU! I look forward to meeting you at the Career Tech Vision 2013.

Mrs. Jessica Carswell, M.Ed.

NATFACS Legislative Chair

Columbia, SC

What an incredible honor it is to serve as NATFACS president for this coming year. We have so many wonderful, talented and amazing people who are a part of our organization. You make serving in this position humbling. Added to the people is the subject matter that we all teach daily.

I recently heard a talk where the speaker told about "bees" in the course of his speech. He shared the fact that during a bee's short lifetime, she only contributes 1/12th of a teaspoon of honey to a hive. For one pound of honey, it takes upwards of 20,000 to 60,000 bees visiting millions of flowers and traveling the equivalent of two times around the world to produce that one pound of honey. Though that 1/12th teaspoon seems insignificant when compared to the total, each bee's part is vital to the life of the hive. The bees depend on each other.

We know that a bee's life is precarious. There are many factors today that affect the life of the bee. As with the bee, our profession is faced with many challenges that weaken our programs. Attacks on Perkins funding, the sequester, the push for college readiness at the cost of elective courses, and the lack of new FACS teachers entering the profession all take their toll.

NATFACS, as a group, must be cohesive. Each of us must do our "1/12th" in our own colony/school.

I have thought of several ideas that may help each of us "do our part".

- Bee passionate about what you teach.
- Bee positive and happy in your work. (Students gravitate to places where they feel good.)
- Bee resourceful and creative in this time of budget cuts.
- Bee adaptable.
- Bee steady and unflappable.
- Bee kind.
- Bee a mentor and influential by inspiring...we teach and guide young people.
- Bee courageous in "standing up" for our profession.
- Bee prepared.
- Bee your best.
- Bee involved in your local, state, and national organizations.

We are all part of the "hive" --Family and Consumer Science Teachers. Our challenges are lighter when we make those efforts to "bee" our best. As we help our students "bee" their best and succeed, our rewards will be sweet.

Rachel H. Gonzalez

President Elect