Emerging FCS Teacher SUMMER INSTITUTE

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Agenda
Tuesday, July 21, 2026

Time	Event
8:00-8:30 am	**Registration and Light Breakfast** *Scones & Coffee*
8:30-8:40	**Welcome**
8:40-9:10 am	**Real-World Learning: Education Pathway in Action** *Kelly Yeakey, CFCS*
9:20-9:50 am	**Nutrition and Healthy Choices: Added Sugar** *Kylie DeSmet, MS, RD*
10:00-11:00 am	**Knife Skills** *Chef Mike Balistrieri*
11:15-1:15	**Cooking Up Innovation: Managing the Business of Test Kitchens & Lunch** *Char Kelley* **Group A** *11:45-12:30: Session* *12:30-1:15: Lunch* **Group B** *11:45-12:30: Lunch* *12:30-1:15: Session*
1:30-3:10 pm	**Designing the Future: Visual Arts in Action** *Brett Lesniak*
3:15-3:45 pm	**Exploring the Human Services Career Cluster** *Christina Patrin*
3:50-4:20 pm	**Child Care in Action** *Denise DuBois*
4:15-5:00 pm	**Connect & Explore** *Denise DuBois*
5:00 pm	**End Day 1 & Dinner On Your Own**

Agenda
Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Time	Event
8:00-8:30 am	**Registration and Light Breakfast** *Danishes & Coffee*
8:30-8:40 am	**Welcome**
8:40-9:10 am	**Career Investigation: A Classroom-to-Competition Approach** *Sarah James*
9:15-9:45 am	**Career Investigation Impact & In Action** *Sophia Knetter, Student*
10:00-11:00 am	**The Art of Teaching FCS Education** *Amanda Drews*
11:00-11:30	**Lunch**
11:30-12:30 pm	**Get Hands-on and Get Excited about Personal Finance!** *Kerri Herrild*
12: 35-1:05 pm	**Welcome to our Classroom!** *Trisha Sirny*
1:10-2:10 pm	**Assessment – Before, During, and After Instruction** *Susan Turgeson, Ed.D., CFCS*
2:15-2:45 pm	**Work Based Learning in FCS Classrooms** *Julie Anderson, CFCS*
2:45-3:00 pm	**Closing**
3:00 pm	**End Day 2**

Real-World Learning: Education Pathway in Action

Presenter: Kelly Yeakey, CFCS,
FCS Educator & FCCLA Chapter Adviser
Menasha Area High School
WAFCS Membership Committee Chair

Partnering Organization: Wisconsin Association of Family and Consumer Sciences

Representing the Wisconsin Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, discover the comprehensive education pathway I've developed in my school. This session will focus on how I've structured the curriculum to engage students from start to finish, with FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) woven in to enhance leadership development and real-world connections. We'll walk through the courses I teach and experience a hands-on activity that brings the pathway to life.

Nutrition and Healthy Choices: Added Sugar

Presenter:
Kylie DeSmet, MS, RD, Retention Specialist, Associate Lecturer
School of Health Sciences and Wellness
University of Wisconsin Stevens Point

We will discuss added sugar vs naturally occurring sugar, added sugar recommendations, and dangers of too much added sugar in the diet. Activities include a case study of a 17-year-old girl's dietary intake and reviewing food labels.

Knife Skills

Presenter:
Chef Mike Balistrieri
Department Chair and Instructor of Culinary Arts
Fox Valley Technical College

Partnering Organization: Fox Valley Technical College

This hands-on Knife Skills Class will introduce the foundation of safe, efficient, and precise cutting techniques essential in any professional kitchen. Participants will learn proper knife handling, care, and sharpening, along with key cuts such as julienne, brunoise, chiffonade, and dice.

Cooking Up Innovation: Managing the Business of Test Kitchens

Presenter:
Char Kelley, CFCS, NBCT
FCS Educator & FCCLA Chapter Adviser
Varsity Girls' Cross Country Coach
Eau Claire North High School

Inspired by the FCCLA STAR Event "Food Innovations", I developed a quarter-long curriculum that immerses students in the process of creating, testing, and marketing food products for today's consumers. This session highlights several introductory lessons from a hands-on, lab-based experience that explores the science of sensory appeal and how factors such as taste, appearance, texture, and aroma influence consumer purchasing decisions. Participants will also discover practical strategies for managing efficient, engaging lab experiences and keeping test kitchens running smoothly. Whether you're looking to enhance food innovation instruction or streamline lab management, you'll leave with ideas you can immediately implement in your classroom.

Lab: Mock Apple Pie (allergens: dairy, gluten)

Designing the Future: Visual Arts in Action

Presenter:
Brett Lesniak
Family and Consumer Sciences/Health Sciences Educator, FCS Department Chair
FCCLA Adviser & HOSA Advisor
Stevens Point Area Senior High (SPASH)

Discover the real-world impact of student creativity! Join Brett Lesniak to see visual arts in action, showcasing how hands-on design projects and creative problem-solving are preparing today's students to design the future.

Exploring the Human Services Career Cluster

Presenter:
Christina Patrin
Health Science Education Consultant
Wisconsin HOSA-Future Health Professionals State Advisor
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Partnering Organization: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Step into the world of Human Services, where compassion meets career opportunity. In this interactive session, educators will explore the broad range of professions within the Human Services career pathway: consumer services, counseling and mental health, early childhood development and services, family and community services, and personal care services. Participants will leave with ideas for developing a Human Services unit or course. Whether you teach health science or FCS, the Human Services career cluster can be integrated into your program.

Child Care in Action

Presenter: Denise DuBois PMC, Senior Product Manager

Discover two of the most well-known infant simulations - RealCare Baby and The Child Care Experience. This session, led by Senior FCS Product Manager of RealityWorks, will demonstrate how to use these simulators in demo mode to teach essential infant caregiving skills. Participants will see firsthand how these tools bring lessons to life and provide realistic practice for future caregivers.

Connect & Explore

Presenter: Denise DuBois PMC, Senior Product Manager

Explore a variety of interactive curriculum kits and simulations that offer hands-on experiences that bring classroom lessons to life; spanning culinary arts, human services, and textiles. Highlights include: Shaken Baby Simulator, Geriatric Simulators, Textiles & Apparel Career Exploration Kit and Seasonal Food Truck Design Kit. You'll have the chance to network with fellow FCS educators, exchange ideas, and discover new ways to integrate tools into your teaching.

Career Investigation: A Classroom-to-Competition Approach

Presenter:
Sarah James, FCS Educator & FCCLA Chapter Adviser
Dodgeville High School

Partnering Organization: Wisconsin FCCLA

Looking for a way to connect classroom instruction with career readiness and FCCLA involvement? This session explores how the FCCLA Career Investigation STAR Event can be incorporated into Family and Consumer Sciences courses to help students develop research, communication, and career planning skills. Learn how classroom projects can serve as a gateway to FCCLA participation while engaging students in meaningful career exploration.

Career Investigation Impact & In Action

Presenter:
Sophia Knetter, Vice President of Development
Wisconsin FCCLA

Partnering Organization: Wisconsin FCCLA

Join Sophia Knetter, Wisconsin FCCLA State Vice President of Development, in showcasing one of her first-place national-winning STAR Event FCCLA projects! As someone who aspires to become an entrepreneur in her future, Sophia utilized the opportunities that FCCLA provides to compete in Career Investigation her sophomore year of high school to further explore her future career through job shadows, hands-on experiences, personality tests, school work, and more. In this session, Sophia will elaborate on her FCCLA competitive event experiences and successes, how FCCLA has impacted her, and then will present her actual Career Investigation portfolio to give attendees a chance to learn about the FCCLA competitive experience and how it can be implemented into real life.

The Art of Teaching FCS Education

Presenter:
Amanda Drews
Assistant Professor FCS Education/CTE, Program Lead FCS Education
UW Stout Polytechnic

Partnering Organization: University of Wisconsin–Stout Polytechnic

Family and Consumer Sciences educators teach a wide variety of content areas, but all share a common goal, creating engaging learning experiences while fostering positive classroom environments. This session explores practical teaching strategies and classroom management techniques that can be applied across FCSE pathways. Participants will leave with tools to increase student engagement, establish effective routines, and build a classroom culture that supports learning and success.

Get Hands-on and Get Excited about Personal Finance!

Presenter:
Kerri Herrild, Business & Information Technology Educator & FBLA Chapter Adviser
De Pere High School
Next Gen Personal Finance Ambassador

Partnering Organization: NextGen Personal Financial Literacy

Wondering who to invite into your classroom to be a guest speaker?! Learn a wide variety of ways on how and who to connect with like community members, businesses, administrators, school board members, friends and family just to name a few. Discover the benefits of collaborating with other teachers to bring in guests for a few classes at once! Keep students engaged in your classroom by inviting others to teach your students!

Assessment – Before, During, and After Instruction

Presenter:
Susan Turgeson, Ed.D., CFCS, Professor, Family & Consumer Sciences
Program Director, Family and Consumer Sciences Education - undergraduate & graduate
University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point

Partnering Organization: University of Wisconsin Stevens Point School of Health Sciences & Wellness

In this session, practical guidance on how the assessment process can be implemented and managed will be shared. Participants will review assessment strategies that can be utilized at various points of instruction. Issues impacting assessment such as late work, redos, extra credit, and artificial intelligence will be included in the discussion.

Work Based Learning in FCS Classrooms

Presenter:
Julie Anderson, CFCS
Family and Consumer Sciences Education Consultant
Wisconsin FCCLA State Adviser
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Partnering Organization: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Work-based learning (WBL) is defined by six programs in Wisconsin. Each WBL program begins by meeting six criteria that set a standard for quality and rigor. When all six criteria of WBL are met, schools can report their WBL data to DPI. The WBL data is used on report cards and Perkins V accountability reports. Julie will review what WBL programs are available and how you can strengthen your WBL program within your FCS classroom.

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