



Protégé Plus Continues

The WAFCS mentoring initiative entitled “Protégé Plus” has provided a small group mentoring opportunity in CESA 11. On December 10 a team of FCS mentors presented “STAR Events 101” program to new professionals who are serving as FCCLA advisers. The mentors included Cindy Quilling (WAFCS member), Sue Becker (Barron Schools), Mary Krans (retired FCCLA adviser) and state FCCLA officer Catherine Gutman. Topics included displays, manuals, oral presentations and food-related competitions.

STAR Events are FCCLA competitions that members may participate in to further the development of their 21st century skills. WAFCS collaborated with Nancy Graese, CESA 11, to manage the registration process and provide the site. Session participants stated they “felt more knowledgeable about how events work and some of the different items that evaluators look for” at the conclusion of the program. Now these new professionals are more confident in communicating expectations to their FCCLA members.

During this school year new professionals have been provided with resources, consultant time and travel expenses to support their career development through “Protégé Plus”. The following three mentoring formats have been pursued during this WAFCS initiative, which include:

- one-on-one mentoring
- resource bank
- small group mentoring.

The mentoring field study will conclude this spring. Recommendations regarding further new professional initiatives will be forwarded to the WAFCS Board of Directors.

Of special interest to new professionals attending the 2015 WAFCS Annual Conference is the breakout session by Julie Martin, School District of New Glarus, entitled “Extra, Extra Get the Inside Scoop!” where she will be talking about her experiences as a first year FCS professional. Julie was our first volunteer to be part of the mentoring resource bank that has been proposed by Protégé Plus.