

The National Teacher of the Year Award and Affiliate Teacher of the Year Awards recognize exemplary teachers who utilize cutting-edge methods, techniques, and activities to provide the stimulus for and give visibility to family and consumer sciences elementary and secondary education.

From the Affiliate Teachers of the Year who compete at the national level, up to three (3) merit finalists are selected. The National Teacher of the Year Award recipient is then selected from these merit finalists.

The National Teacher of the Year must attend the AAFCS Annual Conference & Expo to be recognized and presented with a commemorative plaque and a \$2,500 award. The National Teacher of the Year will also receive up to \$1,000 of support for one year of AAFCS membership and participation in the AAFCS Annual Conference & Exposition. All nominees will have the opportunity to network with peers at the conference and be recognized.

Eligibility

Anyone who enters the competition at the national level must have been chosen as an Affiliate Teacher of the Year (through competitions run at the affiliate level); each affiliate may enter no more than one Affiliate Teacher of the Year into the national competition per year and the nomination must be submitted by the Affiliate President. An Affiliate Teacher of the Year who is eligible for the National Teacher of the Year Award:

- is employed as a family and consumer sciences teacher of grades kindergarten through 12 at the time the nomination is submitted;
- is an AAFCS member at the time of nomination and for at least three consecutive years prior to nomination;
- created and runs a family and consumer sciences program that focuses on one of the following five program areas:
 - *Career Awareness/Job Skill Training* (e.g., work/study; literacy education; entrepreneurship)
 - *Consumer Education/Family Finance* (e.g., consumer rights; understanding credit; budgeting and managing money)
 - *Creative Dimensions/Alternative Program Designs* (e.g., caring for children, the elderly, or the disabled; peer or cross-age tutoring; internationalized curriculum; impact of legislation on family life)
 - *Family Life/Personal and Social Development* (e.g., alternative family structures such as step, blended, or single-parent families; programs for children in self-care; abuse or crisis intervention programming; dealing with grief and death)
 - *Nutrition Education/Diet and Health* (e.g., wellness; food science and chemistry; dietary education)

Although the more generic word *program* is used throughout this document, a teaching unit, semester project, or an initiative suitable for integration with an existing program may also be submitted for an award.

Members of the AAFCS Board of Directors, Awards and Recognition Committee, and Development Committee are not eligible for nomination during their terms of office. AAFCS staff members are not eligible for nomination during their periods of employment with the Association.

Up to three (3) merit finalists will be recognized annually if qualified nominees are identified. One (1) National Teacher of the Year will be selected from these qualified merit finalists.

Recipients are eligible to receive the National Teacher of the Year Award or be recognized as a merit