

Foundational Life Literacy for Workforce Success

Addressing the need for foundational life literacy and people-centered career professionals to enhance workforce success.

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Family and Consumer Sciences Education is key.

Today, many stress the need for specific aptitudes to be successful in work and life. Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Education has been a leader in this work through "process skills", now called 21st century skills or employability skills, which have been a key component in teaching foundational life literacy. **Life literacy** is the understanding and practice of key life skills in a variety of real world situations. The US Department of Labor call these "personal effectiveness skills", skills which are foundational to work and life success.

Life literacy skills are critical to live and work in our global society--problem solving, decision making, goal setting, cooperation, management, leadership, communication, and critical thinking are required to make informed decisions about our lives and in workplace settings. Practicing these skills within contexts that youth can identify with is a strength FCS Education brings to the table.

In addition, these skills are vital to careers which address human needs as organized through Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. These careers range from clothing, housing and financial literacy to health, food accessibility and relationships. These are called **people-centered careers**.

Benefits of FCS Education

<p style="text-align: center;">Healthy Relationship Education</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Stronger relationships can also mean stronger families, resulting enhanced work commitment with less distractions.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Practicing Healthy Decision Making</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Healthier decisions can lead to less sick leave, fewer medical needs and a healthy society. To businesses, it can mean less loss of employee productivity.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Life Literacy Skill Mastery</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Skill introduction and mastery transitions into application within both personal and work settings.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">People-Center Careers Impact All Other Careers</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">People-centered careers are vital to supporting the person who is also a worker. This collectively meets the basic needs of society.</p>
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What is Family and Consumer Sciences Education?

<p>VISION: To empower youth to manage the challenges of living and working in our society.</p>	<p>MISSION: To prepare students for family life, work life and developing the foundational occupational skill set of the high skill, high need people-centered careers through Family and Consumer Sciences.</p>	<p>POSITION STATEMENT: Through a life literacy, and people-centered career lens, FCS students can make informed decisions that impact them and those around them through life and work, improving quality of life and society as a whole.</p>
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Impact of FCS (People-Centered) Careers on Business

FCS Programs of Study	Sample People-Centered Occupations	Sample Business and Industry Impact Gained Through FCS Professionals
Design FCS	Interior Designer Forecaster Product Developer Fashion Designer Textile Developer Entrepreneur	Offers work layout advice to ensure time and work efficiency in floor plan and equipment placement as well as meet ergonomic needs of workers. Designs uniforms and textiles that meet industry standards enhancing worker safety and promotion of desired business image as well as appropriate use of textiles in multiple settings.
Education	K-12 Teacher Support Service Provider Post-secondary Instructor Industry Trainer Early Child Educator	Offers foundational technical knowledge and skill training creating the Education workforce pool. Provides and promotes the understanding education is life-long learning because industry changes so workforce re-training is needed. Addresses need for early education to ensure success later in life and work. Children are our future citizens and employees/employers.
Hospitality & Tourism	Hospitality Director Lodging Manager Culinarian Event Planner Travel Agent Tourism Developer	Ensures personal needs are met when needing quality temporary housing and safe food sources when away from home. Provides assistance when planning business events to ensure customers have a great experience and build a positive business image.
Human Services	Child Care Provider	Meets the personal need for

Geriatric Director	<p>quality family care (child and elders) so they can provide quality care at home and/or the ability to secure quality care outside of the home to allow personal employment.</p> <p>Provides education in making healthy choices which enhances healthier workers leading to lower insurance costs and lost work time.</p> <p>Enhances financial literacy so workers are better able to manage their money and avoid financial challenges which can impact their ability to work (e.g. stress, auto repossession meaning loss of transportation, paycheck garnishing).</p>
Nutritionist/Dietitian	
Family Therapist	
Credit Counselor	
Social Worker	
Personal Assistant	
Life Coach	
Financial Life Planner	

FCCLA: Practicing and Demonstrating Life Literacy

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) provides the avenue for students to practice and demonstrate FCS knowledge and skills learned in the classroom in authentic, real world applications. Focusing on project based learning, youth practice skills for life.

FCCLA includes a variety of experiences to offer age appropriate first steps into leadership, teamwork and 21st century/employability skill demonstration. The National Research Center for Colleges and Universities (NRCCUA) surveys over 30,000 students annually, and the majority indicated they **attribute their development of strong communication (63%) and teamwork (61 %) to their FCS/FCCLA involvement.**

FCCLA Youth Opportunities

PROGRAMS	DESCRIPTION	BENEFIT to Youth
National Programs	Educational programs to help students develop real-world skills aligned to FCS content including--the important of family, healthy relationships, health and safety, financial literacy, 21st century skills, and career readiness.	Youth leadership is practiced when applying knowledge and skills to meet individual, school, and community needs.
Competitive Events	<p>Competitions designed to help members develop 21st century skills through addressing needs they see in their local community.</p> <p>Divided into four mastery levels, each member will find a competitive event that fits their interest, leadership and skill level to ensure personal development is continually advancing.</p>	<p>Youth identify goals, form a plan and implement that plan through the FCCLA planning process, an adaptation of the scientific design process.</p> <p>Members demonstrate 21st century/employability skills in the context of self, family and people-centered career applications.</p> <p>Project contests earn youth scholarships, awards and recognition.</p>
Leadership Positions	Members have opportunities to assume formal and informal leadership roles at the local, region, state and national levels to identify issues, set goals, formulate and implement plans to make a difference in their families, schools and communities.	<p>Youth voice is vital to the organization at all levels.</p> <p>Leadership growth is a continual process in advancing positions.</p> <p>Youth leaders serve along side adults with equal voice and participation.</p>
Peer to Peer Events	<p>Student leaders plan events for peers including chapter activities, district meetings, state and national leadership conferences.</p> <p>Members who have mastery of knowledge and skills in FCCLA present to fellow peers about the</p>	<p>Youth to youth interactions are a best practice and encouraged at all levels.</p> <p>Members are leaders today, and the family and workforce leaders of tomorrow.</p>

	organization and opportunities available.	
Industry and Community Partnerships	Real world learning through industry partners ranging from industry visits, speakers at events, mentoring, and more.	Provides opportunities for work along side industry professionals and community leaders to increase understanding of the profession Provides increased opportunity for internships and jobs.

In Summary

What can you do to support and expand FCS or FCCLA opportunities across Montana?

- Promote FCS Education as an integral part of your school's course work with FCCLA connectivity so knowledge and skills learned can be enhanced, demonstrated and mastered in real world applications.
- Offer to share your expertise with FCS students and FCCLA members as a speaker, tour destination, competitive event judge and/or board member.
- Sponsor financially a FCCLA event and/or underwrite a scholarship or conference component.
- Talk well of FCS Education and FCCLA and include them as a best practice when looking for solutions to related problems, awarding them grants for expanding their work and addressing people-centered issues in Montana through prevention education and workforce expansion through FCS programs.

To Learn More or Make Connections

For more information, or to communicate your interest in supporting Montana FCS or FCCLA, contact:

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