



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Linkhorne Middle School Teacher Elected to VATFACS Board of Directors

Lynchburg, VA – August 12, 2020 – The Virginia Association for Teachers of Family & Consumer Sciences (VATFACS) elected and installed its 2020-2021 Board of Directors during a virtual ceremony on June 29, 2020. Renee Stephens, Family & Consumer Sciences teacher at Linkhorne Middle School in Lynchburg, Virginia, was installed as president-elect of the organization. Mrs. Stephens will serve a three-year VATFACS Board of Directors term, a one-year term on the Virginia FCCLA Board of Directors, and hopes to use her experience to help further promote Family and Consumer Sciences education and support teachers in Virginia.

Stephens is beginning her 35th year teaching Family and Consumer Sciences and has taught a wide variety of classes in middle and high school settings with her longest assignment being in Culinary Arts at E.C. Glass High School. While at E.C. Glass High School, Stephens oversaw the completion of a commercial kitchen and classroom, served as CTE department chair, taught dual-enrollment courses, provided students with opportunities to earn up to four industry certifications, and chartered the E. C. Glass chapter of the National Technical Honor Society. Stephens' students participated in Prostart and FCCLA with much success on the state and national levels; Stephens was awarded the FCCLA Master Advisor award in 2014. Her program was awarded the Creating Excellence Award in 2017 by the Virginia Department of Education as the top CTE program in Region 5. In addition, Stephens has taught at Central Virginia Community College as an adjunct professor. This past year, Stephens moved back to middle school teaching from the high school level and has been enjoying the new challenge of teaching middle schoolers. Stephens received a BS in Home Economics Education in 1983 from Baylor University and a M.Ed. in Educational Leadership from Liberty University in 2012.

About the Virginia Association for Teachers of Family & Consumer Sciences (VATFACS): VATFACS is an organization dedicated to promoting Family and Consumer Sciences in Virginia public schools to improve the lives of our students, their families, and our communities. VATFACS' mission is to promote professional development opportunities for family and consumer sciences teachers in Virginia, provide opportunity for collaboration with family and consumer sciences professionals, and support the purposes of the Virginia Association of Career and Technical (VA ACTE).

About the field of Family & Consumer Sciences:

Family & Consumer Sciences is the comprehensive field of study focused on the art and science of living and working well in our complex world. Our primary areas of focus include culinary arts, hospitality, and tourism; education and training; food science and nutrition; health management and wellness; housing and interior design; human/child development and family relations; personal and family finance; and textiles, apparel, and retailing. Sustainable practices, consumerism, and leadership principles are woven throughout the content areas. Through research, experiential education, and technology, our professionals help people develop the

essential knowledge and skills to lead better lives, be work and career ready, build strong families, and make meaningful contributions to our communities. FACS professionals are found in settings such as academic education at the early childhood, elementary, secondary, and higher education levels, community education for adults and youth, including Cooperative Extension programs, business and industry, government, and health and human services.

For more information, please contact:

Heather Jones
Reporter, VATFACS
703-909-9171
heatherjonesm@gmail.com

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