



**South Carolina Association of  
Family and Consumer Sciences  
111<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**



**Hilton Garden Inn Columbia Airport  
110 McSwain Drive  
West Columbia, SC 29169**

**February 18-20, 2026**



# Welcome to the 2026 SCAFCS Conference

## Dr. LaToya N. Johnson

*SCAFCS President 2024 – 2026*

*Assistant Professor and*

*Academic Program Coordinator*

*South Carolina State University*

*Department of Family & Consumer Sciences*

*Orangeburg, SC*



Dear Esteemed Attendees,

It is with deep gratitude and great pride that I welcome you to the South Carolina Association of Family and Consumer Sciences 111th Annual Conference. This year’s theme, **“FCS: An Umbrella of Opportunities,”** reflects the heart of who we are as a profession — a community that uplifts, protects, and empowers individuals, families, and communities through education, service, and leadership.

Family and Consumer Sciences has always been more than a discipline; it is a calling rooted in purpose. Under this broad umbrella, we create spaces for innovation, mentorship, advocacy, and transformation. Each session, conversation, and connection made during this conference represents another opportunity to strengthen our impact and elevate the future of FCS across South Carolina and beyond.

As my tenure as President comes to a close, I pause with sincere appreciation for the journey we have shared. It has been an incredible honor to serve alongside such dedicated professionals whose passion continues to move our organization forward. I am profoundly grateful to my colleagues, Executive Board members, and mentors who have supported our collective vision with unwavering commitment. I also extend heartfelt thanks to my family members and friends whose encouragement, patience, and belief in me made this leadership experience possible.

Together, we have cultivated growth, strengthened partnerships, and expanded opportunities for those we serve. My hope is that this conference reminds each of us that Family and Consumer Sciences is not defined by a single pathway, but by the countless possibilities we create when we stand united under one umbrella — advancing education, inspiring leadership, and shaping stronger communities.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving this remarkable organization. May this conference renew your purpose, ignite your passion, and remind you of the extraordinary difference Family and Consumer Sciences continues to make in the world.

Sincerely,

Dr. LaToya N. Johnson  
SCAFCS President

## 2025-2026 SCAFCS President-Elect



**Mrs. Babbett Hagans**

Dear SCAFCS Members and Partners,

It is with deep humility and a profound sense of responsibility that I step into the role of President for the South Carolina Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. As I look across our beautiful state—from the Upstate to the Lowcountry—I am continually inspired by the dedication you show to the individuals, families, and communities that call South Carolina home.

My vision for the coming year is rooted in a simple but powerful concept: Unity. Our profession is diverse, spanning education, nutrition, financial planning, textile sciences, and human development. While our specialties vary, our core purpose is identical.

I believe that when we unify as a singular, cohesive voice, we become a formidable force for good. By breaking down silos and sharing our collective expertise, we can better support our neighbors and address the unique challenges facing South Carolina families today—from food security and financial wellness to sustainable living.

Beyond our external mission, my desire is to foster an internal culture where members are eager and willing to support one another. None of us can do this work in isolation. Whether you are a veteran professional with decades of wisdom or a student member just beginning your journey, you have a place at this table.

In 2026, let us commit to being each other's greatest resources. Let us share our successes, offer guidance through our challenges, and lift one another up as we strive to elevate the FCS profession across the Palmetto State.

As we prepare for the year ahead, I encourage you to stay engaged, reach out to your fellow members, and remember the "Betty Lamp" that guides our path. Together, we will continue to be the essential advocates our communities need.

Thank you for your trust, your passion, and your unwavering commitment to the people of South Carolina.

With gratitude,  
Babbett Hagans  
President-Elect, SCAFCS 2026

**SOUTH CAROLINA HOME ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION  
&  
SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES**

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NAME</u>
1914 – 1917	Lalla Martin	1977 – 1979	Emily Wiggins
1917 – 1919	Mary B. McGowan	1979 – 1981	Veronica Carmack (Inman)
1919 – 1921	Catherine Mulligan	1981 – 1983	Leola Adams
1921 – 1922	Christine South (Gee)	1983 – 1985	Louise Hassenplug
1922 – 1924	Sarah Gilliam	1985 – 1987	Judy Brock
1924 – 1925	Lalla Martin	1987 – 1989	Judith Kline
1925 – 1926	Alice B. Foote	1989 – 1991	Mary Alice Thompson
1926 – 1927	Blanche Tarrant (Woodward)	1991 – 1993	Nelda Howell
1927 – 1928	Meta DeLoach	1993 – 1994	Ann Warner
1928 – 1930	Stella Steele	1994 – 1995	Lillie Glover
1930 – 1931	Mrs. Ralph Goodson	1995 – 1996	Carol Webb
1931 – 1933	Jane Ketchen	1996 – 1997	Linda Russell
1933 – 1935	Telma Malone	1997 – 1998	Marie Bell
1935 – 1937	Sarah Cragwell	1998 – 1999	Sara Swanson
1937 – 1939	Ada Moser	6/99 – 12/99	Nancy Porter
1939 – 1941	Margaret McGint (Crowson)	12/99 – 6/01	Brenda Thames
1941 – 1942	Lonny I. Landrum	6/01 – 5/02	Nancy Porter
1942 – 1943	Annie Mae Diedebrand Elizabeth Monroe, Acting	2002 – 2003	Queen Bowman
1943 – 1944	Mary Fraser	2003 – 2004	Della A. Barker
1944 – 1946	Julie Brunson	2004 – 2005	Donna Bundrick
1946 – 1948	Janie McDill	2005 – 2006	Ethel Jones
1948 – 1950	Elizabeth Watson (Potter)	2006 – 2007	Juanita Mendenhall
1950 – 1952	Ellen Miner	2007 – 2008	Sheila Littlejohn (Myers)
1952 – 1954	Alma Bentley	2008 – 2009	Anna Sumabat Turner
1954 – 1956	Ethel B. Watters	2009 – 2010	Dorothy Blanton
1956 – 1958	Juanita Neely	2010 – 2011	Diane G. Smathers
1958 – 1961	Kathleen Gaston	2011 – 2012	Eleanor R. A. Glover (Gladney)
1961 – 1963	Telma Malone	2012 – 2013	Lorna Williams
1963 – 1965	Sallie P. Musser	2013 – 2015	Carol G. Weatherford
1966 – 1967	Claudia Ellis	2015 – 2016	Sarah Jordan
1967 – 1969	Helen Loftis	2016 – 2018	Glenna Mason
1969 – 1971	Ruby Craven	2018 – 2020	Kimberly Ray
1971 – 1973	Martha Seawright	2020 – 2022	Jean Pesce
1973 – 1975	Ruth Hovermale	2022 – 2024	Sophia Brown
1975 – 1977	Eleanor Holton (McIntyre)	2024 - Present	LaToya N. Johnson

**Special Note:** Names appearing in ( ) are married names of individuals who married after serving as President.

# 2025 – 2026 SCAFCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Dr. LaToya N. Johnson**  
**President**

Assistant Professor and Academic Program  
Coordinator  
South Carolina State University  
Orangeburg, SC



**Mrs. Babbett Hagans**  
**President-Elect**

Bob Jones Academy  
FCS/Culinary Arts Teacher  
Greenville, SC



**Mrs. Kimberely McClain**  
**Vice President – Program**

Assistant Professor  
South Carolina State University  
Orangeburg, SC



**Ms. Tiffany Smathers**  
**Vice President-Elect - Program**

Instructional Designer  
Cooperative Extension Service  
Clemson University  
Clemson, SC



**Dr. Marissa Pipkin**  
**Vice President - Services**  
FCS/Foods Teacher  
St. James High School  
Murrells Inlet, SC



**Ms. Carmen Thompson**  
**Vice President – Finance**  
Assistant Professor and Director of Didactic  
Programs in Dietetics  
South Carolina State University  
Orangeburg, SC



**Ms. Krystal Singletary**  
**Secretary**  
AgriFCS Academy Program Manager  
South Carolina State University  
Orangeburg, SC



**Mrs. Lorna Williams**  
**Parliamentarian**  
Retired FCS Professional  
Greenville, SC



**Dr. Diane Smathers**  
**Historian**  
Professor and Director Emerita  
Family and Youth Development  
Clemson University  
Clemson, SC



**Ms. Sophia Brown**  
**Counselor**  
Assistant Principal  
Calhoun County High School  
St. Matthews, SC

# 2025 – 2026 SCAFCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	
President	Dr. LaToya N. Johnson
President-Elect	Mrs. Babbett Hagans
Vice President – Program	Mrs. Kimberly McClain
Vice President-Elect – Program	Ms. Tiffany Smathers
Vice President – Services	Dr. Marissa Pipkin
Vice President – Finance	Ms. Carmen Thompson
Secretary	Ms. Krystal Singletary
Parliamentarian	Mrs. Lorna Williams
Historian	Dr. Diane Smathers
Counselor	Ms. Sophia Brown

STANDING COMMITTEE	
Finance/Budget	Ms. Carmen Thompson, Chair Ms. Sophia Brown
Bylaws	Mrs. Lorna Williams
Nominating	Mrs. Sarah Jordan, Ms. Kimberly Ray, and Mrs. Lorna Williams
Program of Work (Development)	Ms. Kimberly Myers

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS	
Annual Meeting	Mrs. Kimberly McClain, Chair, Dr. Eleanor Glover Gladney, Mrs. Babbett Hagans, Dr. LaToya N. Johnson, Ms. Krystal Singletary, Ms. Tiffany Smathers, Ms. Carmen Thompson, Mrs. Lorna Williams
AAFCS Fund Drive	(Vacant)
Recognition and Awards	Mrs. Avannah Lewis
Public Affairs/Policy	Ms. Sophia Brown
Public Relations	Mrs. Babbett Hagans and Dr. LaToya N. Johnson
SC Department of Education Liaison	Dr. Eleanor Glover Gladney
Student Unit Advisor	Dr. LaToya N. Johnson
Student Unit Chairman	(Vacant)

2025 – 2026 DISTRICT CHAIRS/CO-CHAIRS	
<b>District 1:</b> Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Edgefield, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Oconee, Pickens, Saluda, and Spartanburg	<b>Meeting Chair:</b> Mrs. Melody Weatherford
<b>District 2:</b> Chester, Fairfield, Lancaster, Lexington, Newberry, Richland, Union, and York	<b>Meeting Chair:</b> Mrs. Babbett Hagas
<b>District 3:</b> Clarendon, Florence, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter, Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Georgetown, Horry, Marion, Marlboro, and Williamsburg	<b>Meeting Chairs:</b> Ms. Kimberly Myers Mrs. Marissa Pipkin Jones
<b>District 4:</b> Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Berkley, Calhoun, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton, Jasper, and Orangeburg	<b>Meeting Chair:</b> Ms. Sophia Brown

# South Carolina Association of Family and Consumer Sciences

## 111<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

*Theme:*

*FCS: An Umbrella of Opportunities*

### Conference Schedule



Wednesday, February 18, 2026			
<b>“FCS IN THE STUDIO: LIGHTS, CAMERA, CURRICULUM!”</b> <b>Facilitator:</b> Dr. LaKeshia Adams Instructional Technology Specialist Educator Learning & Resources South Carolina ETV and Public Radio <b>Preconference</b> SC ETV Idea Lab 1041 George Rogers Blvd. Columbia, SC 29201 February 18, 2026 9:00 am – 3:30 pm			
<b>9:00 am – 9:30 am</b>	Registration		
<b>9:30 am – 12:45 pm</b>	What You Need to Know About MediaScapes Studios Station Tour Resource Session		
<b>12:45 pm – 1:30 pm</b>	Working Lunch Introduction to Scavenger Hunt		
<b>1:30 pm – 2:30 pm</b>	Online SC ETV/PBS Scavenger Hunt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance Current Lessons</li> <li>Create New Lessons</li> <li>Careers Found in Public Media</li> <li>Career Exploration</li> </ul>		
<b>2:30 pm – 3:15 pm</b>	Overall Reflection Activity		
<b>3:15 pm – 3:30 pm</b>	Closing		
SCAFCS Board Meeting			
<b>6:00 pm – 8:00 pm</b>	<b>Location: Grecian Gardens, 2312 Sunset Boulevard, West Columbia, SC 29169</b>		
Thursday, February 19, 2026			
<b>7:00 am</b>	Breakfast on Your Own		
<b>7:30 am – 8:30 am</b>	Registration Open		
<b>7:30 am – 8:30 am</b>	Silent Auction & Exhibit Set Up		
<b>8:30 am – 9:30 am</b>	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top; padding-right: 10px;"> <b>Opening General Session</b>  <b>Presiding:</b>                              Dr. LaToya N. Johnson,                              President                              Presiding   <b>Educational Session #1</b>                              (Capital Room)                         </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;">                             Opening Ceremony: Dr. LaToya N. Johnson, President; Assistant Professor &amp; Academic Program Coordinator; South Carolina State University, Orangeburg, SC                               Welcome to the 2026 Conference: Mrs. Kimberly McClain, Vice President – Program; Assistant Professor; South Carolina State University, Orangeburg, SC   <b>Presenter:</b> Dr. Katrina Maxwell; Assistant Professor, Director of M.A. Human Services Program, and Director of M.A. in Pastoral Counseling Program; Regent University, Virginia Beach, VA  <b>Topic:</b> Using Mindful Self-Care to Build Resilience  <b>FCS Focus:</b> Human Development &amp; Family Studies                         </td> </tr> </table>	<b>Opening General Session</b> <b>Presiding:</b> Dr. LaToya N. Johnson, President Presiding  <b>Educational Session #1</b> (Capital Room)	Opening Ceremony: Dr. LaToya N. Johnson, President; Assistant Professor & Academic Program Coordinator; South Carolina State University, Orangeburg, SC  Welcome to the 2026 Conference: Mrs. Kimberly McClain, Vice President – Program; Assistant Professor; South Carolina State University, Orangeburg, SC  <b>Presenter:</b> Dr. Katrina Maxwell; Assistant Professor, Director of M.A. Human Services Program, and Director of M.A. in Pastoral Counseling Program; Regent University, Virginia Beach, VA <b>Topic:</b> Using Mindful Self-Care to Build Resilience <b>FCS Focus:</b> Human Development & Family Studies
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*Thursday, February 19, 2026 – Cont'd*

<b>9:35 am – 10:35 am</b>	<b>Educational Session #2A</b> (Capital Room)	<p><b>Presenters:</b> Dr. Costonzo Bryant-Martin; Assistant Professor and Director of Call Me MiSTER; South Carolina State University, Orangeburg, SC &amp; Mrs. Chelsea Vogleron; Assistant Professor; West Coast University, Orange County, CA</p> <p><b>Topic:</b> Teach Like a Catalyst: Sparking Engagement, Confidence, &amp; Classroom Energy</p> <p><b>FCS Focus:</b> Education &amp; Training</p>
	<b>Educational Session #2B</b> (Governor's Room 2)	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Student Round Robin Session</b></p> <p><b>Topic #1:</b> Land That 1<sup>st</sup> Professional Job! Interviewing Skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Presenter:</b> Mrs. LaToya Preston-Branch; HR Manager, Office of Human Resources; South Carolina State University, Orangeburg, SC</li> </ul> <p><b>Topic #2:</b> Present with Confidence: Public Speaking Skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Presenter:</b> Teesa Brunson, Ed.D.; Senior Lead Director of Development – College of Education; University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC</li> </ul> <p><b>Topic #3:</b> Are You Qualified? Resume Writing Tips.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Presenter:</b> Ms. Kniccoa S. Johnson; Branch Manager – State Credit Union; Irmo, SC</li> </ul> <p><b>Topic #4:</b> Your Look Says Everything: Dress to Impress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Presenter:</b> Ms. Kenya Hubbard, MBA, MHRM; Instructor of Management; Leadership and Professional Development Coordinator; South Carolina State University, Orangeburg, SC</li> </ul>
<b>10:40 am – 10:55 am</b>	Networking/Door Prizes/Conference Quest	
<b>11:00 am – 11:40 am</b>	<b>Educational Session #3</b> (Capital Room)	<p><b>Presenter:</b> Dr. Suzanne Baxter, RD, LD, FADA, FAND; SDB Books LLC; Able South Carolina, Board of Directors; Co-Founder and Inaugural Chair, Disabilities in Nutrition and Dietetics</p> <p><b>Topic:</b> Digital Accessibility: It's Under Your Umbrella of Opportunities, Too!</p> <p><b>FCS Focus:</b> Nutrition and Technology</p>
<b>11:40 am – 11:55 am</b>	Vendors, Silent Auction, Professional Networking, and Conference Quest	
<b>11:45 am – 12:55 am</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> General Session</b> <b>Presiding:</b> Dr. LaToya N. Johnson, President	<p><b>A Panel Discussion:</b> Introducing the Human Nutrition Pathway for the 2026-2027 Academic Year</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b> Karin I. Evans, PhD, RDN, CHES, Professor, Department of Human Nutrition, Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC; and Mrs. Kate Gerweck, MS, RDN, LD: State Director of Nutrition Practice, South Carolina Department of Health</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Carmen Thompson, MS, RDN, LD, Assistant Professor and Director of Didactic Program in Dietetics; South Carolina State University, Orangeburg, SC</p>
<b>1:00 pm – 1:50 pm</b>	<b>Educational Session #4</b> (Capital Room)	<p><b>Presenters:</b> Dr. Kennard DuBose, Assistant Professor; Benedict College; Columbia, SC &amp; Dr. Aissa Williams, Assistant Professor; Benedict College, Columbia, SC</p> <p><b>Topic:</b> Health, Wellness, and Nutrition Education: An Interdisciplinary Model for Addressing Food Insecurity at Benedict College through the Tiger Resource Center and Community Garden</p> <p><b>FCS Focus:</b> Nutrition</p>

Thursday, February 19, 2026 – Cont'd		
<b>2:00 pm – 2:50 pm</b>	<b>Educational Session #5</b> (Capital Room)	<p><b>Presenter:</b> Mr. Scott Cooke; South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs; Columbia, SC</p> <p><b>Topic:</b> South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs: Who We Are and How We Can Help</p> <p><b>FCS Focus:</b> Personal and Family Finance</p>
<b>3:00 pm – 3:50 pm</b>	<b>Educational Session #6</b> (Capital Room)	<p><b>Presenter:</b> Ms. Bonita Clemons, FarmaSis; Columbia, SC</p> <p><b>Topic:</b> FarmaSIS: Cultivating Health, Wealth, and Sisterhood Through Land and Legacy</p> <p><b>FCS Focus:</b> Food, Farming, &amp; Finances</p>
<b>6:00 pm – 8:30 pm</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> General Session</b> Presiding: Ms. Tiffany Smathers, Historian (Capital Room)	<p>Banquet Fashion Show</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Ms. Kendra Johnson, Professor of Theatre; Clemson University, Clemson, SC</p> <p><b>Topic:</b> Careers in Costume Design</p> <p><b>FCS Focus:</b> Textiles and Apparel</p> <p>Officer Installation Awards and Recognitions</p>
Friday, February 20, 2026		
<b>7:00 am</b>	<b>Breakfast on Your Own</b>	
<b>8:00 am – 9:00 am</b>	<b>Business Meetings</b> – Members of AAFCS and SCAFCS are asked to be in attendance.	
<b>9:00 am – 9:25 am</b>	Networking/ Door Prizes	
<b>9:30 am – 10:10 am</b>	<b>Educational Session #7</b> (Capital Room)	<p><b>Presenter:</b> Ms. Lanier Leby Alston, Middle School FACS Teacher; Hand Middle School, Columbia, SC</p> <p><b>Topic:</b> The Importance of Community Service</p> <p><b>FCS Focus:</b> Education and Training</p>
<b>10:15 am – 10:30 am</b>	<b>Hotel Checkout</b>	
<b>10:45 am – 11:30 am</b>	<b>Educational Session #8A</b> (Capital Room)	<p><b>Presenter:</b> Dr. Tracy West, Dean of the School of Education; Columbia College, Columbia, SC</p> <p><b>Topic:</b> Supporting Families and Communities Through Education and Collaboration</p> <p><b>FCS Focus:</b> Education and Training</p>
	<b>Educational Session #8B</b> (Governor's Room 2)	<p><b>Presenter:</b> Mr. Marshall Hemingway, MS, CPO, TRA, Adjunct Professor; South Carolina State University, Orangeburg, SC</p> <p><b>Topic:</b> Recreation and Resilience: Mental Health in College Life</p> <p><b>FCS Focus:</b> Human Development &amp; Family Studies</p>
<b>11:30 am – 12:00 pm</b>	<b>Closing General Session</b> Presiding: Dr. LaToya N. Johnson, SCAFCS President	<p>Invitation to the 2027 111<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference: Ms. Tiffany Smathers, Vice President-Elect – Program, Instructional Designer; Cooperative Extension Service – Clemson University</p> <p>Upcoming Events Conference Survey Door Prizes Goodies on the Go Closing – Dr. LaToya N. Johnson, President</p>



# III<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Banquet

6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

*Presiding: Ms. Tiffany Smathers, Vice President-Elect of Program*

Welcome.....Ms. Tiffany Smathers  
Vice President-Elect of Program

Invocation.....Ms. Carmen Thompson  
SCAFCS Vice President - Finance

Dinner  
Fashion Show

Guest Speaker.....Ms. Kendra Johnson  
Professor of Theatre  
Clemson University; Clemson, SC

Officer Installation.....Dr. LaToya N. Johnson  
SCAFCS President

## Awards and Recognitions

Past Presidents.....Dr. LaToya N. Johnson  
SCAFCS President

Annual Awards.....Mrs. Avannah Chilton  
SCAFCS Awards Committee Chair

Special Presentations.....Dr. LaToya N. Johnson  
SCAFCS President

Closing Remarks.....Dr. LaToya N. Johnson  
SCAFCS President

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NATIONAL WINNERS!



**Dr. Eleanor Glover Gladney**  
Retired FCS Professional  
Former Team Lead – SCDE  
Columbia, SC



**Ms. Lanier Lebbly Alston**  
FCS Teacher – Hand Middle School  
Richland School District One  
Columbia, SC

*American Association of  
Family and Consumer  
Sciences  
2026 Distinguished Service  
Award Winner*

*American Association of  
Family and Consumer  
Sciences  
2026 National Merit  
Finalist Teacher of the Year*

We are incredibly proud to celebrate our National Winners, who will be honored at the 2026 American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) Annual Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. Their national recognition is a powerful reflection of their dedication, excellence, and unwavering commitment to advancing the Family and Consumer Sciences profession.

Dr. Gladney and Ms. Alston exemplify the very best of our South Carolina Affiliate. Their achievements not only bring distinction to themselves, but also shine a national spotlight on the strength, leadership, and impact of Family and Consumer Sciences in South Carolina.

We enthusiastically encourage our members and conference attendees to join us in Louisville in support of these well-deserved honor. Let us come together to celebrate their accomplishments, uplift our colleagues, and proudly represent South Carolina on the national stage.

Congratulations to our Dr. Eleanor Glover Gladney and Ms. Lanier Lebbly Alston—we are immensely proud of you and grateful for the way you continue to elevate our profession!



**2026 Annual Business Meeting Agenda**  
**Friday, February 20, 2026**  
**8:00 am – 9:00 am**

1. Call to Order Dr. LaToya N. Johnson, President
2. Standing Rules Mrs. Lorna Williams, Parliamentarian
3. Minutes 2025 Annual Meeting Ms. Krystal Singletary, Secretary
4. Membership Report Dr. Marissa Pipkin, VP – Member Services
5. Treasurer’s Report Ms. Carmen Thompson, VP – Finance
6. Convention Report Ms. Kimberly Myers, 2025 SCAFCS Teacher of the Year
7. Governor’s Proclamation Ms. Sophia Brown, Counselor
8. AAFCS Fund Development Ms. Carmen Thompson, VP – Finance
9. New Business
  - a. Election Report Dr. Marissa Pipkin, Nominating Committee Chair
  - b. Introduction of 2026 – 2027 Officers Ms. Kimberly Ray, Nominating Committee
  - c. Helen Loftis Application Ms. Carmen Thompson, VP – Finance
10. Awards Report Mrs. Avannah Chilton, Awards Committee Chair
11. Upcoming Dates

2026 SC Education + Business Summit  
June 15-18, 2026; North Charleston, South Carolina

2026 AAFCS Conference  
June 18-21, 2026; Louisville, Kentucky

2027 SCAFCS Conference  
February 17-19, 2027; Charleston, South Carolina
12. Adjournment

# MEET OUR PRESENTERS

(Special Note: Presenters are in the order in which they present.)



**Dr. Lakeisha Adams** has 10+ years of educational instruction, support, and leadership experience on local, regional, and state levels. A certified Global Career Development Facilitator, with a background in teaching middle and high school mathematics, adult education math and science, and addressing college and career readiness for individuals in custody, her results-driven approach emphasizes leveraging technology for empowering learners. Dr. Adams excels in fostering collaborations with key stakeholders, making her an asset at the intersection of education, technology, and workforce development. She loves analyzing and solving problems that enable others to excel.



**Dr. Katrina Maxwell** is a Program Director of the M.A. in Human Services and Pastoral Counseling programs and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Counseling Ministries at Regent University. She became a faculty member of Regent University in Virginia Beach, VA in 2022 where she teaches courses such as Marriage and Relationship Counseling, Multicultural Awareness and Individual Diversity, and Helping Skills and Techniques. She earned a Ph.D. and M.S. in Family Relations from Florida State University (FSU) and B.S. in Child Development from South Carolina State University (SCSU). Dr. Maxwell is the co-author of a chapter, Cultural Competency in the e-book, Community Partnering for the Advocacy of Mental Health. She co-authored two articles, Job burnout: Causes and prevention from Human Services perspective and A Christ-Centered Acceptance and Commitment Program for Racial Harmony in Christian Populations. In addition, she has given over a dozen presentations at various professional conferences.



**Costonzo Bryant-Martin, Ed.D.**, is an Assistant Professor of Education at South Carolina State University and serves as the Director of the Call Me MiSTER Program, a statewide initiative dedicated to recruiting, preparing, and retaining effective educators within South Carolina's P-12 school systems. As a third-generation faculty member, he is deeply rooted in advancing education through intentional teaching, leadership development, and community-centered partnerships. Dr. Bryant-Martin is a frequent presenter and speaker at state, regional, and national conferences, where he is known for delivering engaging, practitioner-focused sessions that connect leadership, student development, and classroom impact. His work reflects a strong commitment to preparing the next generation of educators and leaders who are equipped to serve diverse learners and communities with purpose and excellence.



**Chelsea Vogleson, M.S., CCC-SLP**, is an Assistant Professor of Speech-Language Pathology at West Coast University, where she instructs and coordinates the academic and professional development of future communication sciences clinicians. In her role, Professor Vogleson draws on her clinical expertise and strong commitment to student achievement to prepare graduates for success in both academic and clinical settings. Professor Vogleson's teaching emphasizes student-centered learning, critical thinking, and the translation of research into practice—key competencies for addressing communication disorders across the lifespan. She is passionate about contributing her expertise to interdisciplinary conversations around health, communication, and education, advancing understanding of how speech-language pathology intersects with family and consumer sciences to support individual and community well-being.



**LaToya Y. Preston** is an HR Manager at South Carolina State University, where she focuses on supporting all employee needs and delivering exceptional customer service. She holds a Bachelor of Science, a Master of Business Administration, and a Master of Science in Human Resource Management. With over 15 years of human resources experience, she brings extensive knowledge and leadership to her role. In addition to her administrative work, Ms. Preston also serves as an adjunct professor in the University's College of Business.



**Teesa Brunson** is the Senior Lead Director of Development for the College of Education at the University of South Carolina, bringing over 15 years of experience in development and fundraising. She earned a doctorate in higher education leadership from Nova Southeastern University, a master's degree in print journalism from Florida A&M University, and a bachelor's degree in English from South Carolina State University. Teesa resides in Columbia, SC, with her husband, Jamie, and their daughter, Kennedy.



**Kniccoa S. Johnson** is the Branch Manager of the South Carolina State Credit Union’s Broad River Branch in Irmo, South Carolina, where she oversees branch operations, staff supervision, member services, and lending support. She brings more than a decade of progressive leadership experience within the credit union industry, having previously served in roles including Member Relations Supervisor, Loan Officer, Member Service Representative, and Teller. Known for her strong commitment to service excellence, operational efficiency, and team development, Ms. Johnson works closely with members to support their financial goals while fostering a welcoming and responsive banking environment. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish from the University of South Carolina–Columbia.



**Kenya D. Hubbard** is an Instructor of Management at South Carolina State University, where she has served for over a decade, teaching courses in Management, Human Resources Management, and Business Administration within the College of Business and Information Systems. She holds both a Master of Business Administration and a Master of Human Resources Management and is currently a Doctoral Candidate at The University of Southern Mississippi, pursuing a degree in Human Capital Development. Prior to returning to her alma mater, Ms. Hubbard taught at a community college in Atlanta, Georgia, where she prepared students to enter the workforce as emerging business leaders. A proud 1999 graduate of South Carolina State University, she embodies strong “Bulldog Pride” and is deeply committed to cultivating the next generation of innovative business professionals and change agents. Through her teaching, she strives to create a collaborative and interactive learning environment that promotes leadership development and the practical application of business concepts.



**Dr. Suzi Baxter** is a retired registered dietitian and disability volunteer and advocate. She trained at Texas Christian University, Texas Woman’s University, and the Medical College of Georgia. She worked in clinical, foodservice, community, and research settings before resigning her research professor position in 2016 due to a disability she acquired in 2010. Her awards include the South Carolina Affiliate 2012 Outstanding Dietitian of the Year, Academy 2017 Monsen Award for Outstanding Research Literature, and Today’s Dietitian 2025 TD10. She has 99 peer-reviewed publications including several on disabilities and 13 book chapters. She devoted 7 years to co-found the Disabilities in Nutrition and Dietetics MIG which launched in June 2023 with her as the Inaugural

Chair. She is a member of the Board of Directors for Able SC and a volunteer for Disability Rights SC. She recently self-published a children's book titled "When I Grow Up, I Can Be a Dietitian." She also co-edited and self-published a book for teenagers and adults titled "Credentialed Dietetics Practitioners with Disabilities Get the Job Done."



**Dr. Karin I. Evans** is a registered dietitian, Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES), educator, and eating disorder specialist with more than 25 years of clinical, academic, and leadership experience. She earned her PhD in Health Education and Promotion from Walden University, a Master of Arts in Nutrition Education from Immaculata University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Villanova University. Dr. Evans is the owner of The Abundant Dietitian, a virtual private practice specializing in eating disorder recovery using a Health at Every Size® and Intuitive Eating–informed approach. Her work emphasizes client-centered care, interdisciplinary collaboration, and the reduction of weight stigma in health care. She has held leadership and supervisory roles in

residential, outpatient, and telehealth treatment settings, including Lead Supervisory Dietitian positions and national coaching platforms. In academia, Dr. Evans serves as an Assistant Professor at Winthrop University, where she teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in human nutrition, sports nutrition, community nutrition, counseling, and public health nutrition. She is actively involved in research, mentorship, and community engagement related to eating disorders, body image, food insecurity, and breastfeeding education. Dr. Evans’ professional work integrates evidence-based nutrition science, trauma-informed care, and innovative education to advance both clinical practice and health professional training.



**Kate Gerweck, MS, RD, LD,** is a senior public health nutrition leader with over 14 years of experience directing federally funded nutrition and food security programs. She currently serves as the State Director of Nutrition Practice, overseeing statewide nutrition education and physical activity initiatives that support South Carolinians through evidence-based programming and cross-sector partnerships. Kate’s expertise spans public health nutrition, workforce development, and policy. As the first Workforce Development Liaison on the Board of the South Carolina Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, she focuses on strengthening the dietetics workforce through education pipeline development, training expansion, and systems-level strategies to address workforce shortages. Her

professional interests include maternal and child nutrition, health equity, and sustainable workforce solutions in public health nutrition.



**Kennard DuBose** is a native of Darlington, South Carolina. He is currently an assistant professor in the social work department at Benedict College and serves as the project director for the college’s Collegiate Recovery Program, BC ROAR. He has worked for three years at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke in the Department of Social Work. Other teaching appointments include the University of South Carolina, Allen University, and Voorhees College. Dr. DuBose was recently the Assistant Deputy Director of Behavioral Health Services at the South Carolina Department of Corrections before retiring from state government in December 2019. His other professional work experience includes working at the South Carolina Department of Mental Health, the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice, and the South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services. Dr. DuBose is a licensed social worker and licensed addiction counselor in South Carolina. He received his bachelor’s degree in business administration from Allen University, his master’s degree in social work from the University of South Carolina, and his doctoral degree in social work from Capella University.



**Dr. Aissa D. Williams** is a social work educator, scholar, and practitioner whose career is grounded in advanced education, focused professional training, and applied academic scholarship. She currently serves as an Assistant Professor of Social Work at Benedict College, where she teaches undergraduate courses and contributes to curriculum development, assessment, and program enhancement aligned with CSWE competencies. Dr. Williams earned her Doctorate in Social Work from Walden University, where her doctoral scholarship examined affirmative social work practice with homeless youth. She holds a Master of Social Work from Fordham University with a concentration in Client-Centered Management, emphasizing leadership, supervision, and organizational practice, and a

Bachelor of Science from Southern Connecticut State University. Dr. Williams' professional experience includes supervisory and training roles with the Connecticut Department of Children and Families, where she led workforce development initiatives, facilitated staff training, and contributed to quality assurance and case practice improvement. These experiences inform her academic teaching and scholarship. Dr. Williams holds credentials in online teaching and curriculum development and integrates trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and equity-centered frameworks into her teaching, advising, and scholarly work. She is actively engaged in professional service through committee work and membership in the National Association of Social Workers and is committed to preparing future social workers through rigorous instruction, mentorship, and socially just pedagogy.



**Scott Cooke** is the Communications and Public Information Director for the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA) where he provides education on financial literacy topics and identity theft & scam prevention. Cooke joined SCDCA in October of 2021 as the agency’s Social Media and Web Strategist. He is an Emmy Award winner with more than 20-years of experience in broadcast journalism as a producer and newsroom manager. Cooke is a graduate from the University of South Carolina.



**Bonita D. Clemons, MPH** is a public health professional, farmer, and wellness educator dedicated to advancing family and community health through culturally rooted food systems. She is the President of Bonita Global, LLC, Founder of Dianne’s Call, and Creator of FarmaSIS—an initiative empowering women and families to grow food, reclaim health, and build economic resilience. With a Master’s in Public Health and certifications in holistic health and nutrition education, Bonita integrates food access, prevention, and family-centered wellness into practical, community-based programming. She was named the 2023 South Carolina Woman Farmer of the Year and regularly partners with educators, farmers, and organizations to strengthen local food systems and household health. Bonita’s work centers food as both medicine and legacy connecting families back to land, culture, and sustainable well-being.



**Kendra Johnson** is a costume designer and professor of theatre in the Department of Performing Arts at Clemson University. She teaches Costume Design, African American Theatre, Theatre Appreciation, and Special Topics in Costume Design. Her research focuses on African-American self-expression through clothing, the history of African American dress during the 18th and 19th centuries, and how the cultivation of indigo by enslaved people affected their dress. Prof. Johnson's creative research is costume design. She designed for theatre companies in the Midwest, Northeast, and Southeast. Her 100 design credits include *Fences* at the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company and Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, *Dutchman* at Nebraska Repertory Theatre, *In the Heights* at Hangar Theatre in Syracuse, NY, *Sister Act* at Geva Theatre in Rochester, NY, *Appropriate* at The Warehouse Theatre, and a recent production of *The Amen Corner* at Cincinnati Shakespeare Company.



**Lanier Lebbly Alston** is a dedicated Family and Consumer Sciences educator at Hand Middle School in Columbia, South Carolina, with more than two decades of experience empowering students through career-focused learning and community engagement. A graduate of South Carolina State University, she earned a Bachelor of Science in Fashion Design with a concentration in Business and a Master of Science in Individual and Family Development. Ms. Alston's innovative "Scarves of Comfort" initiative integrates service learning, sustainability, and leadership development, earning recognition from the South Carolina Department of Education and local media outlets. She was honored as the 2025 South Carolina Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher of the Year and was recently named a 2026 AAFCS National Merit Finalist for Teacher of the Year, one of the organization's highest professional recognitions. Through her work, Ms. Alston continues to advance the mission of Family and Consumer Sciences by fostering empathy, creativity, and real-world skill development among her students.



**Dr. Tracy West** serves as the Dean of the School of Education at Columbia College. Her career at Columbia College began 25 years ago as an Assistant Professor of Special Education. In 2018, she became Dean and has worked to create partnerships and innovative programming for the School of Education across the state and nation. During her time as Dean, she also had the honor of serving as a member of the SC State Board of Education. Prior to joining Columbia College, she was a Special Education teacher in North and South Carolina, and the collaborative skills developed as a Special Educator have continued to be the foundation of her leadership.



**Marshall Hemingway** is an educator and community organizer with more than two decades of experience supporting student development, youth engagement, and community wellbeing. He has served as a Faculty Instructor at South Carolina State University for the past three years, where he is known for his student-centered teaching approach, practical instruction, and commitment to helping learners build confidence, resilience, and real-world skills. His work extends beyond the classroom as a community organizer, developing programs that incorporate therapeutic recreation to support youth engagement and healthier coping skills. He also assists business owners with strategic planning to strengthen operations and long-term impact. Marshall brings a clear, engaging communication style to his presentation sessions, connecting teaching, leadership, and community impact in ways that inspire meaningful action and sustained growth.

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Thank you for attending the 2026 South Carolina Association of Family and Consumer Sciences 111<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. Our sponsors and donors added so much to our conference with their generosity. We are truly grateful! Our sincere gratitude to all of you who spent countless hours helping with the implementation of this conference. Much appreciation to our students who presented and unselfishly volunteered their services throughout the conference; the future of Family and Consumer Sciences is sustained through all of you!