President’s Message

"Hard work spotlights the character of people: some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their noses, some don't turn up at all."  -Sam Ewing

This past year, the Ambassadors organization showed true character by rolling up sleeves and putting in some hard work. We updated by-laws, changed our calendar, moved annual meetings, raised money for grants, and implemented educational programs across Oklahoma. While these changes were at times painstaking, they were necessary and worth the labor. But we can’t let our hard work end here.

As I mentioned at the OHCE state meeting, we are 75 percent of the way to having the Ambassadors endowment grow to $1 million. As FCS programs continue to face budget challenges and restrictions, it is more important now than ever to make sure we provide adequate funding to these programs that are teaching essential life skills. Reaching a $1 million endowment can ensure FCS programming continues far into the future, independent of the levels of funding from the state or university. As we enter the last quarter of 2019, many families look for organizations they can make tax deductible donations to: This year consider FCS Ambassadors! Your donation, whatever the amount, can help us reach a $1 million endowment.

Speaking of hard work, I want to show gratitude to our board and committee members. Thank you for donating your time and talents to Ambassadors. You all help the organization continue to flourish. I appreciate you all tremendously. Thank you also to our members, those who donate and those who apply for grants, taking much needed FCS programming to your county.

To wrap up, I want to encourage you to apply for an Ambassadors grant this coming year. As you start planning for 2020 evaluate what FCS programs are in your county. What programs would you like to see implemented? Chances are, there’s an Ambassadors grant for that! Let’s turn up our sleeves and continue working to make sure FCS programs stay relevant in Oklahoma.

Sincerely,
Amanda Ford

Dear FCS Ambassadors:

Your board has been working hard at finding ways to encourage more donations and more applications for Ambassador grants. Many great projects have been funded and we’d like to see even more soon. As you may know, our College of Human Sciences is combining with the College of Education, Health, and Aviation. We have been assigned a new set of OSU Foundation officers and I will be reaching out to restart our efforts to bring the Ambassador endowed funds to the $1 million mark. Stay tuned and have a wonderful fall.

Jorge H. Atiles
Associate Dean, Extension & Engagement
Assistant Director, Cooperative Extension-FCS
Report of the Ambassadors Silent Auction at the OHCE State Meeting 2019

The Ambassador Silent Auction was once again a great success – mainly due to the contribution from members of OHCE, FCS Extension Educators and District and State Specialists. The Silent Auction this year hosted 50 donated items which brought $2,932 and cash donations of $1,200 for a grand total of $4,132.

I want to extend a huge thank you to those counties who registered their items early. This early registration made the Auction progress very smoothly.

Auction proceeds are divided evenly between Ambassadors and the M.E. Fitch Fellowship funds. These funds are used to promote and support new and innovative projects and programs which fit the creed of OHCE and the mission of Extension, particularly in the field of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Contributions are always welcome! Funds can be sent more than once a year, which is helpful in spreading out donations. As always, all support is appreciated and carefully utilized as intended.

Brenda Hill-Alta
Cleveland County FCS Educator

Volunteers Needed, Wanted and Appreciated…for Ambassador Leadership Positions

Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, “Lifes most persistent and urgent question is, What are you doing for others?” The CE-FCS Ambassadors’ nominating committee is seeking nominations/volunteers for the following positions: President-elect; Secretary; Treasurer; and five Directors. Those nominated will be voted on during the 2020 Annual Meeting. All officers and directors, except the President-elect will serve a two-year term.

The following are criteria for the positions:
1. All nominees for elective and appointed positions must be a member in good standing (i.e. current donor) of the CE-FCS Ambassadors and meet eligibility requirements before being considered for office. Nominees selected are required to attend the annual meeting of CE-FCS Ambassadors when appointed or elected positions are announced. The nominee will attend the meeting at his/her own expense.
2. Prior to being elected to the Executive Board of CE-FCS Ambassadors, a member must have been a member of CE-FCS Ambassadors for two years and have served as an appointed committee chair prior to election to the Executive Board.
3. The President shall be selected from any of the past elected officers of Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer or Director. The candidate should meet the qualifications of the other officers as above and have been an active Ambassador member for three years.

If you meet these qualifications, please consider volunteering as a nominee for these positions. You may be called by a member of the nominating committee which consists of: Brenda Hill, Cheryl Lively, Nancy Self, and Jan Maples. Thank you for your consideration of this very important matter!

Jan Maples
Chair, Nominating Committee
Past President

2019 – 2021 Ambassador Board
Front Row (left to right) – Pam Varner, Jessica Riggin, Amanda Ford, Jan Dawson and Brenda Miller
Middle Row (left to right) – Tara Brown, Melanie Taylor, Cindy Clampet, Donna Jung, April Cole, Randi McCann, Dana Baldwin and Jan Maples
Back Row (left to right) – Dr. Atiles, Michelle Bonicelli
Awards and Grants

Congratulations to all the 2019-2020 CE-FCS Ambassadors grant recipients. A total of 15 Ambassador grants worth $29,924.81 and two Fitch Fellowships in the amount of $2,875 were given for this grant cycle. Once again, there was still money left to give if there had been more grant applications submitted, particularly in the county grant category.

Are you thinking, planning and strategizing about applications for your county or state project? The 2020/2021 grant applications are due January 10, 2020. Announcements of successful grants will take place in the spring, with project implementation and spending between July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021. Huddle your teams and begin to plan how the CE-FCS Ambassadors can help you achieve in the future. All grant applications can be found at https://human-sciences.okstate.edu/fcs/ambassadors/grants.html. All applications should be sent to Susan Routh at susan.routh@okstate.edu by the January 10, 2020 deadline. Early applications will be accepted. Reimbursement for monies spent before July 1, 2020, will not be approved for 2020-2021 awards.

Need help understanding the categories? Here is a list of grant categories to help get you started.

- County Grants (eight individual county grants are available) = $750 each
- OHCE County Grants (five OHCE county grants are available) = $800 each
- State Specialist Grant (can fund more than one) = $3,000 cap for category
- Mult-County Grant (three multi-county grants are available) = $1,000 each
- Blackwell Legacy Award (one available) = $15,000 to fund up to a three-year project
- Blackwell Supplemental Award (one available) = $1,000 Margaret Edsel Fitch Fellowship (can fund more than one) = $11,000 cap for category
- Outstanding Individual OCES Staff Award = $500
- Outstanding Team Award (up to five people) = $500
- Outstanding Group Award (more than five people) = $500

Applicants Needed for FCS Honor Awards

We have many qualified educators, teams and groups who could easily win this award. Besides, it would look great for your career ladder! The Honor Awards available are Individual; Team (up to five people); and Group (more than five people). The winner in each category will receive $500. Applications are due January 10, 2020 and are available at https://human-sciences.okstate.edu/fcs/ambassadors/grants.html

Save the Date!!

CE-FCS Ambassadors Annual Meeting will be held during the OEAFCs Annual Conference at the Embassy Suites on Meridian in Oklahoma City, April 7-9, 2020.

At this time, the exact date and time has not been determined. Please mark your calendar and more information will be in the February 2020 newsletter.

Jessica Riggin
Vice President

Susan Routh
Awards and Grants Chair
Teo Hair, Murray County OHCE – Recruiting with Focus

Leslye Owen, Pottawatomie County OHCE – Crafting Fun with Boys and Girls Club

Mary Juarez, Muskogee County OHCE – Food Pantry Cookbook

Ladonna Hines, Taylor Conner and Josh Campbell, Oklahoma County – Four Season Living
Danielle Wells, Carter County – Sewing for the Future

Christi Evans, Oklahoma CNEP Unit – Let’s Get Cooking

Katey Masri and Dr. Ron Cox – Extension Resources for Spanish Speakers & Co-Parenting Training Model

Jenni Kinsey, OSU – Kids in the Kitchen
Trinity Brown, Pawnee County and Dea Rash, Payne County – Microwave Meals

Grant Recipients not pictured:

**OHCE**

Glenda Busby, Oklahoma County – Membership Drive
Shem Hamil, Cleveland County – Time Capsule Project
Major County OHCE – Reality Check
Pam Booker, Jackson County – Quilting Through the Generations

**OCES Outstanding Team**

Linda Latta, Ellis County; Rhonda DeVor, Woodward County and Recia Garcia, Retired DPS – Oklahoma Quilt Trails

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2019 – 2020 OCES FCS Ambassador Committee Chairs

The following are chairs of the various Ambassadors committees. Please refer any ideas or suggestions to the respective committee chair.

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<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
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<td>Nominating</td>
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<td>Brenda Sheik</td>
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Ensure a Bright Future by Helping Build the Endowments

**Ambassador General Fund**
You can support the educational endeavors of Ambassadors that benefit Oklahoma families and youth by making a contribution. Your continued support is greatly appreciated!

I pledge: $ ______ to be paid  ____ monthly  ____ quarterly ____ annually.

Enclosed is a check for $________ payable to OSU Foundation/CE-FCS Ambassadors.

Charge to my credit card __________________________ Brand __________________________
card #  expiration date  
Signature __________________________ 

Name __________________________ 
Address __________________________ 
Phone __________________________ 

This gift is in memory of: __________________________
This gift is in honor of: __________________________
Send an acknowledgement of my gift to: __________________________

Return to: Ambassadors Fund, 135 HS, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078-6111

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**Margaret Edsel Fitch Extension Fellowship**
The Fellowship provides a mini-sabbatical experience for OCE-FCS staff to study a relevant program in another state or country. Your continued support is greatly appreciated!

I pledge: $ ______ to be paid  ____ monthly  ____ quarterly ____ annually.

Enclosed is a check for $________ payable to OSU Foundation/CE-FCS Fitch Fellowship

Name __________________________ 
Address __________________________ 
Phone __________________________ 

This gift is in memory of: __________________________
This gift is in honor of: __________________________
Send an acknowledgement of my gift to: __________________________

Return to: M.E. Fitch Fellowship, 135 HS, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078-6111

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<thead>
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<th>Level</th>
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<td>Grand</td>
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<td>$10,000, $20,000, etc.</td>
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The Ambassadors newsletter is published twice yearly.
Newsletter Editor: Brenda Miller