

Press Release

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Contact:

Danielle Jessup

Executive Director

djessup@executiveoffice.org

NEAFCS ANNOUNCES THE 2025 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

NEAFCS (National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences), the professional association for Extension Family and Consumer Science professionals, recognized three exceptional women inductees for their commitment, dedication and effective leadership and involvement in NEAFCS at the state, regional and/or national level. They were inducted into the Hall of Fame at the 2025 NEAFCS Annual Session held in Grand Rapids, Michigan on October 23, 2025.

THE 2025 DISTINGUISHED INDUCTEES ARE:

- Kathy Dothage
- Christine Kniep
- Margaret Viebrock

"The National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Hall of Fame was established in 2019 to recognize outstanding NEAFCS members who have contributed their time, talent and/or treasure to the NEAFCS."

INDUCTEES' BACKGROUND AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Kathy Dothage

Since joining in 1969, Kathy has earned widespread recognition for her outstanding service. Kathy served on the National Board continuously from 2002-2009. She was elected to the maximum two NEAFCS Executive Board positions (Secretary, and VP of Professional Development) prior to serving in the Presidential succession. Prior to running for the board, she served as an affiliate liaison for the 2002 Annual Session Planning Committee. Kathy has also represented the Central Region on the NEAFCS Nominating Committee. More recently she has served as an Annual Session Ambassador in 2022 and offered her mentoring services by applying to the NEAFCS Leadership Experience.

At the local level Kathy diligently served her affiliate throughout her career. She served as the Affiliate President in 1997 and was a voting delegate for the Annual Session board meeting in 1998. She has served countless committees including the Bylaw and

awards committees as recently as 2025. She frequently serves as an unofficial Historian for the affiliate, providing the membership with precedence to inform decisions for the future.

Kathy has attended over forty annual sessions throughout her 55 years of membership. Her most recent concurrent session was presented in 2022. Kathy's impressive list of accolades includes the Distinguished Service Award, the Continued Excellence Award and culminating with the 2024 Extension Educator of the Year Award.

Kathy's active engagement and leadership within NEAFCS exemplifies her dedication to excellence. She has mentored countless members who are today and tomorrow's leaders of NEAFCS.

Christine Kniep

Christine Kniep has been a pillar of leadership within NEAFCS for over four decades. Her journey began in 1984, and she has since held numerous pivotal roles, including NEAFCS Secretary, NEAFCS Vice President for Professional Development, NEAFCS President-elect/President/Past President, and NEAFCS Historian. Christine's leadership extended beyond these roles, as she actively participated in various committees, such as the NAEHE Principles of Professional Practice Committee, the Future of NAEHE Task Force, and the NEAFCS External Marketing Committee. Her commitment to advancing NEAFCS is evident through her chairmanship of the NEAFCS Charting the Future Committee and her involvement in the Past Presidents Committee.

Professor Kniep's contributions to NEAFCS have been instrumental in shaping the organization's future. She played a key role in guiding NEAFCS through strategic planning and development. Her leadership in the 75th and 85th Anniversary Committees showcased her dedication to preserving the rich history and legacy of NEAFCS. Christine's efforts in the National Office Selection Committee and the Restructuring Committee further demonstrate her commitment to ensuring the organization's growth and sustainability. Her work as a copy editor for the NEAFCS Journal and her involvement in the Tenure/Promotion Review Committee highlight her dedication to maintaining high standards of professionalism within NEAFCS.

Christine Kniep epitomizes the values and mission of NEAFCS through her tireless dedication and steadfast commitment. Her visionary leadership and ability to inspire others make her an ideal candidate for this recognition. Christine's exceptional contributions have been recognized through numerous awards, including the NEAFCS Distinguished Service Award, Continued Excellence Award, and Educator of the Year. Her impact on the association and its members at local, state, regional, and national levels has been profound.

Christine has been a cornerstone of the Wisconsin affiliate, always mentoring and encouraging robust engagement for membership. Even in retirement, she continues to contribute significantly, embodying the spirit and values of NEAFCS. Her passion for home economics remains active, as she now (in addition to all her other contributions in retirement) serves as a seamstress for our beloved Green Bay Packers. Christine's mentorship and encouragement have fostered a culture of active participation and

growth within the Wisconsin affiliate, ensuring that NEAFCS remains a vibrant and dynamic organization.

Margaret Viebrock

Margaret Viebrock's membership with NEAFCS and career with WSU Extension spans 55 years of dedication to the profession with innovative programming, excellence in leadership, numerous grants and multiple awards. Her work exemplifies her commitment to NEAFCS as a leader and FCS professional. She makes significant contributions that impact individuals, families and communities locally and nationally.

She has won more than 25 awards from NEAFCS for her innovative work. She serves as an external reviewer for FCS promotion/tenure packets and dedicates time to help young professionals prepare for career advancement. Margaret was Western Region Director, served on the National Nominating Committee, Professional Improvement Committee, National Exhibits Chair, National Annual Session Planning Committee and Awards Selection Committee. She is a National Meeting Ambassador. She has been state president, treasurer and membership resource chair and recruited new members and mentored many colleagues. She served on the University Senate, WSU Faculty Affairs Committee and was recently appointed to the Provost's Workload Policy Task Force. She is always engaged in decision making that affects the viability of FCS professionals.

While Margaret's work supports traditional FCS programs. She is a leader with innovative ideas. Together with partners, she designed and managed a commercial kitchen for entrepreneurs which strengthened the local economy and created jobs.

For more than 15 years she managed a 6-state "Women, Farms & Food" project for women involved in agriculture, directs a 3-county SNAP-Ed nutrition program, facilitates the Partners in Parenting program for families to meet court requirements for separation or divorce and developed an award-winning zoom series titled Make Every Bite Count, to help families learn to prepare healthy meals on a limited budget. She manages Strengthening Families, a 7-week course for families and youth to learn parenting and communication skills. She developed an award-winning Family Story Walk to encourage healthy eating, gardening and being active. Many of her programs have been duplicated across the United States.

Margaret is very skilled at changing her program focus to meet emerging needs. Her partnerships are never-ending, ranging from social service agencies, libraries, Master Gardeners, schools, medical facilities, city government and health departments. Margaret is very active in other professional organizations, but always with the intent of furthering the values of FCS. She chairs the Community of Extension with AAFCS, serves on the Journal of Extension Board of Directors, participates in career fairs and serves on a local FCS School Advisory Board. She advocates for and promotes careers with Extension because of her commitment to the profession.

ABOUT NEAFCS

The National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (NEAFCS) educates and recognizes Extension professionals who impact the quality of life for individuals, families and communities. NEAFCS is the professional organization for Extension Family and Consumer Sciences that builds leaders for the future, recognizes and promotes excellence and scholarship in Extension Family and Consumer Sciences programming, provides innovative professional growth and development opportunities, serves as a nation-wide resource for education, information, networking and partnerships, promotes Extension Family and Consumer Sciences and the mission and goals of the Land Grant University Extension System.

NEAFCS includes more than 2,900 members. To learn more, please visit www.neafcs.org.