



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gonzalez Named 2020 VATFACS Outstanding New Teacher

Woodbridge, VA – August 13, 2020 – The Virginia Association for Teachers of Family & Consumer Sciences (VATFACS) honored its award and scholarship recipients during a virtual ceremony on June 29, 2020. Susan Gonzalez, Family & Consumer Sciences teacher at Forest Park High School with Prince William County Public Schools, received the 2020 VATFACS Outstanding New Teacher Award. Recipients of this award must have made significant contributions toward innovative, unique and novel programs and have shown a professional commitment early in their careers. The award winner must be currently employed as full-time classroom or laboratory teacher in a Family and Consumer Sciences program other than at the baccalaureate level. Nominees must have taught for a minimum of three but not more than five years and must be new to the teaching profession.



Mrs. Gonzalez demonstrated innovation in Career and Technical Education (CTE) through a student project that fosters leadership and a commitment to serve others. Teachers are challenged every day to show students that what they are learning is relevant to their lives. Mrs. Gonzalez, with the help of her colleagues and students, transformed a clothing drive into lessons in workplace readiness and altruism. Students collected over 3,000 pounds of clothing and raised over \$600 surpassing their goal of \$400. Mrs. Gonzales said, “it is my strong belief that student benefit from hands-on activities that allow them to practice their soft skills.” The purpose of the clothing drive was to raise funds for community projects that promote healthy kids and to collect baby blankets that would be donated to a family shelter and the Montclair Fire Department. Mr. Smith, Assistant Principal at Forest Park High School said, “Mrs. Gonzalez is truly a remarkable educator who cares deeply for each student’s academic and personal development. Mrs. Gonzalez is a testament to the importance of Family & Consumer Sciences in the 21st century as a catalyst for the development of each student’s career skills.”

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). VATFACS awards scholarships and graduate fellowships to individuals who have exhibited the potential to make contributions to the family and consumer sciences education (FCS) field.

About the field of Family & Consumer Sciences:

Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS) 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. FCS 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.

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