

2021 CTE TEACHER EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

DR. DAWN MALLETTE

Associate Professor, Chair - Family and Consumer Sciences B.S., Associate Director for Online Degrees and Distance Programs Education

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Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS) Teachers in Colorado are extremely lucky for a variety of reasons, but one of the biggest reasons is that many of them had the distinct honor of having Dr. Dawn Mallette as their teacher educator and FCS champion in their journey to the classroom. Now not all Colorado FCS teachers graduated from the program Dr. Mallette has cultivated at Colorado State University (CSU), but they all learn from her as she shares industry knowledge and expertise with our professional association and passes along education strategies about curriculum design, assessment, and program alignment to meet national and state requirements.

Knowing that neighbor (and rival) university, the University of Wyoming, no longer had an FCS Teacher Preparation program, Dr. Mallette and her colleague at Wyo created a way for Wyo students to obtain a teaching certificate through CSU, while still graduating from the University of Wyoming. Long a visionary thinker, Dawn was also part of the team that created the Great Plains IDEA (Interactive Distance Education Alliance) for human services and agriculture content areas – this in 1994, before distance education was a popular thing!

Dr. Mallette has been a strong leader in Family & Consumer Sciences not only in Colorado, but nation-wide. She has served as CATFACS president, on the Board of Colorado Family, Career & Community Leaders of America student organization, and has also been heavily involved in AAFCS/CAFCS. Dawn implemented a strong recruitment pipeline of FCS Educators through her “Say Yes to FCS” reception for FCCLA students at the annual State Leadership Conference. She was awarded a 2019 “Best Teacher” Award at Colorado State University and in 2017, received the National Distinguished Service Award from the national FCCLA Association.

Dawn’s research areas include teacher preparation (FCS and general), teacher professional development, curriculum development, high stakes testing and distance education.

Here is a typical testimonial, this one from 2020-2021 CACTE President and FCS Teacher, Jessica Teal:
“I first met Dawn in my Family and Consumer Sciences classroom my senior year at Rocky Mountain High School. Had I not met Dawn, I may not be where I am today. Not only did I fall in love with FCS, I was challenged and supported in developing my leadership through Dawn’s guidance within our College of Health and Human Sciences and beyond my graduation in the spring of 2016. Dawn encouraged me to attend my first ever CACTE Summit in Steamboat Springs and from there I became my Division membership chair, secretary, president-elect, president and ultimately serving our state association as CACTE President. Dawn values the importance of building strong networks and staying involved on important issues that impact our profession. I am the teacher and professional I am today because of Dawn.”

Her dedication and commitment to education, FCS, and Career & Technical Education as a whole, make Dr. Dawn Mallette an outstanding recipient of the CACTE CTE Teacher Educator of the Year Award! Congratulations Dawn!