



# Candidate Application for National Office

What you can expect when applying for a National Board Position:

- Newly elected individuals will receive training from board members, and materials related to the position will be passed down.
- Candidates will be invited to join the Pre-National Board Meeting as an observer to become familiar with board business (will not be reimbursed by National to attend)
- Newly elected Executive Board members may be reimbursed for one night's lodging for post board meeting (at a rate of ½ of double room) but are not reimbursed for additional travel costs. Meal reimbursement for day of post board meeting will follow Policy Manual and current approved budget.

Upon applying for the position, I acknowledge that I will have the necessary resources (i.e. computer, internet, etc.) to complete the duties of the position.  I agree

Office Applied for: Vice President Public Affairs Date: 3.29.23

**This form should be used as a guideline. When typing your own form, add more space as necessary.**

B.	Christine	Zellers	
First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	
Family and Community Health Sciences Assistant Professor	Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Cape May County		
Job Title	Employer		
4 Moore Road	Cape May Courthouse	NJ	08210
Work <b>Mailing</b> Address	City	State/Territory	Zip
<a href="mailto:zellers@njaes.rutgers.edu">zellers@njaes.rutgers.edu</a>	<a href="mailto:Zellers.rutgers2019@gmail.com">Zellers.rutgers2019@gmail.com</a>		
Work Email Address	Home Email Address		
609.465.5515 x3609		609.605.2825	
Work Phone/Extension	Work Fax	Home Phone	

## I. Education Background

BS/BA	BA Literature	West Chester University	1990
	Major	Institution	Year
MS/MA	Masters of Public Policy	Walden University	2016
	Major	Institution	Year
PhD			
	Major	Institution	Year

## II. State/Territory Affiliate Experience

Office	Year(s)
New Jersey NEAFCS Treasurer	2020-present
Committee Chair	Year(s)
Committee	Year(s)

## III. NEAFCS Experience

Office	Year(s)
Committee Chair	Year(s)
Chairperson Public Affairs Advocacy Committee	2022-2023
Vice Chairperson Public Affairs Advocacy Committee	2021-2022
Apprentice Public Affairs Advocacy Committee	2020-2021
Other Assignments Representing NEAFCS	Year(s)

Annual Sessions Attended (list years)

2020, 2021 virtually 2022 in person

Submissions for Awards, Webinars and/or Annual Session Proposals (concurrent session, poster, ignite)  
*Submission did not have to be accepted.*

Check all that apply:

- Webinar Submission                      Year(s): \_\_\_\_\_
- Annual Session Proposal                      Year(s): 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023      Proposal Type: Concurrent and Poster
- Award Submission                      Year(s): 2022,2023

## IV. Non-Association Extension Leadership Assignments

(Annual conference committees, search committees, etc.)

Assignments: Elected (E) or Appointed (A)	Year(s)
Appointed Rutgers Cooperative Extension FCHS County Agent/Asst Professor Search	2023
Appointed Rutgers Cooperative Extension FCHS Department Chair Search	2022

## V. Membership/Leadership in Other Organizations

(Professional, civic, service, religious or agency related organizations)

Organizations, Leadership role	Year(s)
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Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior (SNEB)  
Member 2020-present  
SNEB Public Health Committee  
SNEB Competency Coordinator - Public Health Division  
SNEB Competency Committee

American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences  
Member 2022-present

Epsilon Sigma Pi  
Member 2020-present

**VI. Work Experience Other Than Extension (if applicable)**

Positions Year(s)

**VII. Awards and Honors**

Awards Date(s)

**AWARDS**

**Gerwig Award** – *Pilot Study- Cape May County Walkability. \$1,000. 2022*

**NEAFCS Eastern Regional Award** - Excellence in Teamwork Award for *What's the Catch New Jersey Seafood & Healthy Living. 2022*

**NEAFCS Eastern Regional Award– Communications Written Media Award** – *Small Lifestyle Changes Can Boost Sleep, Health. 2022*

**NEAFCS Roth/Sangree Professional Development Award 2022**

**NEAFCS State Award** – Excellence in Teamwork Award for *What's the Catch New Jersey Seafood & Healthy Living. 2022*

**NEAFCS State Award** – Communications Written Media Award- *Small Lifestyle Changes Can Boost Sleep, Health. 2022*

**Gerwig Award** – *Pilot Study of Seafood Cost and Consumption. \$1,000. 2020*

**Position Statement**

A. Why would you like to be a candidate for this office?

I have extensive volunteer experience as a leader, coordinator of volunteers and worker bee. I have served NEAFCS as the Public Affairs Advocacy Committee Chair, Vice Chair and Apprentice and been involved in other professional volunteer posts outside of NEAFCS. I enjoy working most with NEAFCS as the atmosphere is comfortable and meets my personal needs to dedicate my time while supplying professional support. My willingness to commit time to something I enjoy makes me an ideal candidate for Vice President of Public Affairs.

B. If you were elected, what would be your top priority/goal for your term?

As the Advocacy Chairperson I recognize that members are interested in being involved but time is always a barrier to the good intentions of volunteering personally and professionally. My main goal would be to find ways to involve as many members as possible through creative inclusiveness to maximize the limited time they have available. Additionally, knowledge is power and I would work hard to provide members with as much information as possible to encourage more involvement.

Are you willing to be considered as a candidate for a different office? The national nominating committee chair would contact you first as to your preference and willingness to serve in any other position. Yes  No  Maybe

Are you willing to leave your application on file for three (3) years in the event of a position vacancy or for reconsideration for office for the next election? Yes  No

**Your signature below confirms that you have read the current NEAFCS Policy Manual and agree to the duties and qualifications for the position in which you are applying for as well as additional policies outlined in the Manual.**



Signature of Applicant

3.29.23  
Date

**Letters of support and recommendation from the following individuals must accompany the application.**

- ▶ State Director of Extension (required)
- ▶ State Program Leader or immediate supervisor (one required)
- ▶ NEAFCS board member or state/territory affiliate president (optional)

**Applications are due to the National Nominating Committee Chair by May 1st. Please include with your application a high resolution headshot photo for the candidate display at Annual Session.**

*NEAFCS is an equal opportunity/affirmative action association. NEAFCS values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of race, color, gender, age, religion, national origin, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation. Membership is not by invitation. (Strategic Plan 1993-97)*

April 17, 2023

Dear Nominations Committee,

I write in support of Chris Zellers' application for Vice President for the Public Affairs Committee of the National Extension Association of Family and Community Sciences. Chris has been involved in various capacities for NEAFCS since she joined in 2020, beginning as a member, and thereafter assuming roles as state treasurer, advocacy committee apprentice, vice chair and now chairperson. Additionally, she serves on professional committees for the Society of Nutrition Education and Behavior and various state and local committees in New Jersey and Cape May County. In her current role within Rutgers Cooperative Extension as a Family and Community Health Sciences educator, Chris manages volunteers for the Cape May County FCHS Advisory Committee and Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program. She has also managed volunteers in previous professional roles and has served as a volunteer leader.

Chris upholds the standard for her profession as an FCHS Educator by attending national conferences, presenting at professional forums, being an active committee member, and publishing articles in peer-reviewed journals. She embodies the ethos of her profession by being the 'boots on the ground' expert in her field in the local community and seeking novel ways to positively impact the community while attending to scholarly responsibilities as an extension professional. As a Cooperative Extension professional Ms. Zellers has demonstrated her willingness to be a team player and is very conscious of her job responsibilities while managing the rigorous schedule of tenure and representing her county, department, and extension on the local, state, and national levels.

I fully and without reservation recommend Chris for the position of Vice President for the NEAFCS Public Affairs Committee. I am confident that she will be a productive leader and representative for NEAFCS.

Sincerely,

  
Brian J. Schilling

Senior Associate Director, NJAES  
Director, Rutgers Cooperative Extension

BJS:mmc

April 20, 2023

Dear NEAFCS Nominations Committee,

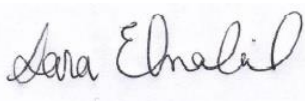
I am writing in support of Chris Zellers' application for Vice President for the Public Affairs Committee for NEAFCS. As I am sure you are aware Ms. Zellers has been involved in various capacities for NEAFCS since she joined in 2020, beginning as a member, state- treasurer, advocacy committee apprentice, vice chair and now chairperson. Additionally, she serves on other professional committees for the Society of Nutrition Education and Behavior and various state and local committees in New Jersey and Cape May County.

Ms. Zellers upholds the standard for her profession as an FCHS Educator. She is an effective educator with exceptional teaching evaluation scores for her direct teaching of clientele; as well as training volunteers and staff who are supervised by her. Her scholarly and programmatic focus has been on caregiver wellness, and food as medicine programming which she has published on and won multiple state and national awards. She regularly attends and presents at national conferences and is a trusted colleague to many.

As a Cooperative Extension professional Ms. Zellers has demonstrated her willingness to be a team player and is very conscious of her job responsibilities while managing the rigorous schedule of tenure and representing her county, department, and extension on the local, state, and national levels. She embodies the standard of her profession by being the boots on the ground expert in her field in the local community and seeking novel ways to reach the community while attending to scholarly responsibilities as an extension professional.

I recommend her for the position of Vice President for the Public Affairs Committee, and I know Ms. Zellers will be a good leader and representative for NEAFCS. She has had experience managing volunteers for the Cape May County FCHS Advisory Committee and Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program and will be able to manage the committee as needed. She has also managed volunteers in previous professional roles and has served as volunteer leader. This is why I believe Chris Zellers will excel in the NEAFCS Vice President for the Public Affairs Committee role and have no doubts in her abilities to support NEAFCS in its efforts. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Sara Elnakib, PhD, MPH, RDN  
Chair/ Associate Professor  
Department of Family & Community Health Sciences

