



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. X I agree

Office Applied for: Southern Region Director

Date: April 2, 2021

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

Keishon	Jamil	Thomas	
First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	
FACS County Extension Agent	University of Georgia Cooperative Extension		
Job Title	Employer		
145 First Street	Macon	GA	31201
Work Mailing Address	City	State/Territory	Zip
thomaskj@uga.edu	Keishonthomas10@gmail.com		
Work Email Address	Home Email Address		
478-751-6338	478-752-1773	404-307-1541	
Work Phone/Extension	Work Fax	Home Phone	

I. Education Background

BS/BA	BS Political Science	Florida A&M University	1995
	Major	Institution	Year
MS/MA	MPA Public Administration	Florida A&M University	1997
	Major	Institution	Year
PhD			
	Major	Institution	Year

II. NEAFCS Experience

Office	Year(s)
Committee Chair-Awards and Recognition Training Subcommittee	Year(s) 2019-2020
Other Assignments Representing NEAFCS	Year(s)
National Awards and Recognition Committee Member	2014- Present
Showcase of Excellence Presenter	2014, 2016
Southern Region Thought of Day Presenter	2019
Webinar Presenter	2019, 2020
National Award Judge	2020, 2021

Annual Sessions Attended (list years)

2020 Virtual

2019 Hershey PA

2018 San Antonio, TX

2017 Omaha, NE

2015 White Sulphur Springs, WV

2014 Lexington, KY

2012 Columbus, OH

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): 2021_____ Proposal Type: concurrent session

Award Submission Year(s): _____

III. State/Territory Affiliate Experience

Office	Year(s)
SR VP Awards and Recognition	2020-2021
Jr VP Awards and Recognition	2019
SR NW District Director	2017
JR NW District Director	2016

Committee Chair	Year(s)
Awards and Recognition	2020-2021

Committee	Year(s)
Annual State Planning committee	2012-2021

IV. Non-Association Extension Leadership Assignments

(Annual conference committees, search committees, etc.)

Assignments: Elected (E) or Appointed (A) Year(s)

Presidential Inauguration Planning Committee	2007 (A)
Farm, Home, Ministers Conference Planning Committee	2009, 2010 (A)
Ham and Egg Legislative Breakfast Planning Committee	2010, 2011 (A)
4-H County Agent Search Committee	2011 (A)
Co-Founder Rural Georgia Healthy Housing Advisory Board	2013 (A)
Cooperative Extension 100 Years Celebration Planning Committee	2014 (A)
Program Development Team Northwest District	2016 (A)
NW District Dossier Review Committee	2019-2020 (A)
NW District Program Development Team	2018-2020 (A)
Extension Conference Committee	2018 (A)

V. Membership/Leadership in Other Organizations

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

Organizations, Leadership role	Year(s)
Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP), Jr. Director	2015-2016
Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP), Sr. Director	2016-2017
American Association of Family Consumer Science (AAFCS), Member	2012

VI. Work Experience Other Than Extension (if applicable)

Positions	Year(s)
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August 2002 – March 2007- Office of Sponsored Programs– Fort Valley State University, Fort Valley, GA

Post Award Coordinator

July 2000 - August 2002-Graduate Studies & Extended Education-Fort Valley State University- Macon Campus, Macon, GA

Clerical Assistant

January 1998 - June 2000-Office of Sponsored Programs Clark Atlanta University,-Atlanta, GA

Program Assistant

VII. Awards and Honors

Awards	Date(s)
Extension Housing Outreach 1st place National, NEAFCS	(2012)
Extension Housing Outreach 1st place Southern Region NEAFCS	(2012)
Extension Housing Outreach 1st place State GEAFCs	(2012)
Early Childhood Child Care Award 1st place National NEAFCS	(2014)
Early Childhood Child Care Award 1st place Southern Region NEAFCS	(2014)
Early Childhood Child Care Award 1st place State GEAFCs	(2014)
Marketing package award 2nd place National NEAFCS	(2014)
Marketing package award 1st place Southern Region NEAFCS	(2014)
Marketing package award 1st place State GEAFCs	(2014)
Office of Sponsored Programs Scholarly Recognition Award	(2010-2012)
Clean and Healthy Families & Communities Award 1st place State, GEAFCs	(2015)

Extension Housing Outreach Award 1st place National, NEAFCS	(2015)
Extension Housing Outreach Award 1st place Southern Region NEAFCS	(2015)
Extension Housing Outreach Award 1st place State GEAFCS	(2015)
Educational Technology Award 2nd place National, NEAFCS	(2015)
Educational Technology Award 2nd place Southern Region NEAFCS	(2015)
Educational Technology Award 1st place State GEAFCS	(2015)
Educational Publications Award 1st place State GEAFCS	(2015)
Northwest District Conference Poster Presentation Award 2 nd place	(2015)
Unites States Environmental Protection Agency Region IV Children's Health Hero Award	(2016)
Served as Principal Investigator or Co- Principal Investigator for grant Awards totaling over \$960,000 (2011-2017)	
Environmental Education Award 1 st place National, NEAFCS	(2017)
Extension Housing Outreach, 1 st place Southern Region, NEAFCS	(2017)
Environmental Education Award, 1 st Place, Southern Region, NEAFCS	(2017)
GAE4-HA State Winner Excellence in Workforce Development	(2020)
GAE4-HA State Winner Innovation in School Relations	(2020)
NAE4-HYDP Southern Region Winner Excellence in Workforce Development	(2020)

Position Statement

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

I consider it a privilege to serve as the Southern Region Director. I strongly believe in FACS and the elevation of our profession. I would like to share our amazing story with key constituencies by promoting quality classes, programs, series, webinars, tweets and most of all the positive impacts we have on families. I would also like to highlight the excellent accomplishments across the Southern Region. I would use my unique knowledge, skills and ability to support the mission of NEAFCS - providing extension professionals with opportunities for professional development, recognition and networking. I want to serve as a catalyst for the facilitation of effective communication and sharing of information among the Executive Board and Affiliate presidents as well as the members they represent. I see this position as an "ambassador" for the Southern Region at-large. I would use this opportunity to cultivate a strong sense of unity built upon the strong foundation set by my predecessors.

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

As the 'ambassador' for the Southern Region my primary focus would be to ensure that all members are kept abreast of current and accurate NEAFCS-related information through consistent and timely communication. I would achieve this goal by serving as the conduit for information between the Executive Board and Affiliate Presidents; ensuring Affiliate Presidents are kept fully informed on important factors influencing the FACS profession; and lastly publicizing NIFA impact statements from State Affiliates.

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 X

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 X 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.



4-5-21

Signature of Applicant

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)



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College of Family and Consumer Sciences

April 27, 2021

Dear NEAFCS Nominating Committee:

It is a pleasure to provide a letter of support for Keishon Thomas' nomination packet for NEAFCS Southern Region Director. Ms. Thomas is an outstanding Family and Consumer Sciences Agent and would be an excellent regional director.

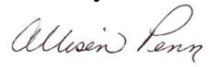
Ms. Thomas can relate to NEAFCS member's program knowledge and work experiences because of her own broad family and consumer sciences programming and achievements. Ms. Thomas is an accomplished professional and has an established record of productivity and innovation in bringing together partners to develop and deliver programs and resources to impact Georgia and the Southern Region. As indicated in her candidate packet, she has educational impacts in diverse content areas, including healthy home environments, human development, nutrition education, chronic disease prevention, and financial literacy. Her program impacts have earned regional and national recognition. Just as an example, Ms. Thomas educated 140 women through the *Cooking For a LifeTime: Cancer Cooking School*. She reached women who were rarely, or never, screened for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancers. As a result, of the program, 15% of the women were eligible for resources for services they could not otherwise afford, and 91.3% reported the intent to get a mammogram. Ms. Thomas has secured \$103,165 in extramural funding to support programs. She has presented posters and presentations at international, national, and state conferences, and has authored and co-authored journal articles and Extension factsheets.

Ms. Thomas provides leadership for people and teams. Most recently, Ms. Thomas served as the chair for the NEAFCS Awards and Recognition Training Sub-committee. As part of her responsibilities, she led a collective of Extension professionals to develop articles, webinars, and videos about awards. She has also updated several publications regarding awards for NEAFCS. Ms. Thomas is a productive and committed team member. She has served effectively on numerous UGA Extension committees and served in various leadership positions with NEAFCS, GEAFCS, and Epsilon Sigma Phi.

Ms. Thomas lights up a room with energy, enthusiasm, and positivity. She is an excellent communicator and an accomplished collaborator. She is open and relates easily to others, which draws her peers to her. Her approachability, ability to build new relationships quickly, and communication needs and concerns between multiple groups make her the perfect candidate to serve as a regional director. I encourage the Southern Region membership to give Keishon Thomas their full consideration for NEAFCS Southern Region Director.

Please let me know if I may answer any additional questions regarding Ms. Thomas' qualifications for the position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allisen Penn".

Allisen Penn
Associate Dean for Extension and Outreach



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION

Sumter County Extension Office
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Americus, GA 31709
TEL 229-924-4476
mitziparker@uga.edu

April 22, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my honor to write this letter of support on behalf of Ms. Keishon Thomas' application to serve NEAFCS in the office of Southern Region Director.

Ms. Thomas joined NEAFCS and the Georgia affiliate (GEAFCS) in 2011. Since joining, Ms. Thomas has demonstrated her leadership skills by serving the GEAFCS as the JR Northwest District Director, SR Northwest District Director, JR Vice President of Awards and Recognition and Vice President of Awards and Recognition. In the role of NW District Director, Ms. Thomas was responsible for representing Georgia's NW District at Executive Board meetings, disseminating NEAFCS news and updates, and collecting members' state/national dues. As VP of Awards and Recognition, Ms. Thomas encouraged fellow members to apply for awards and offered trainings on the Awards Application Process. Ms. Thomas was responsible for securing award application judges, planning the State Awards Recognition Ceremony, and the presentation of awards. In 2020-2021, Ms. Thomas represented Georgia as the Chair for the Awards and Recognition Training Sub-Committee for NEAFCS. In this role, Ms. Thomas lead a collective of Extension professionals to develop articles, webinars and videos about the awards process. She presented awards information on behalf of the committee to her home state of Georgia as well as the Florida and Tennessee affiliates. In addition, she instituted a judges' training to train judges on the process of reviewing awards. Ms. Thomas has also updated several publications regarding awards for NEAFCS.

Ms. Thomas has attended seven NEAFCS Annual Sessions since joining in 2011. She has served at the Annual Sessions in the capacity of Showcase of Excellence Presenter, Southern Region Thought of the Day Presenter, Webinar Presenter, and as a National Award Judge.

Ms. Thomas' highlighted accomplishments exhibit her commitment and dedication to NEAFCS. If selected for the office of Southern Regional Director, I have no doubt that she will excel in this leadership role. Ms. Thomas' passion and commitment to NEAFCS is evident by the roles and responsibilities she has assumed since becoming a member. She is a true leader, she leads by example with grace and an infectious optimistic personality.

Sincerely,

Mitzi Parker

President, Georgia Extension of Family and Consumer Sciences



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Associate Dean for Extension

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Athens, GA 30602

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caesext@uga.edu

April 20, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I write this letter of support on behalf of Ms. Keishon Thomas' application to serve as Southern Region Director of NEAFCS. As one of our finest agents, Ms. Thomas consistently demonstrates professional and personal passions which equip her for this position. She is a collaborator in every sense of the word, and she continues to find unique and innovative ways to advance our mission throughout central Georgia and beyond. As her application materials show, Keishon is a natural leader who excels in bringing people together to work for a common cause.

Ms. Thomas' professional achievements include providing trainings and programs related to housing and the environment including securing grant funding to support *Healthy Homes*, nutrition and chronic disease prevention - reaching over 650 participants through her *Spice Up Your Life* and *Food to Fork* and the *Cooking for a Lifetime Cancer Cooking School*. Keishon's estate planning programs *Planning for Peace of Mind* and *Wills for Heroes* sessions resulted in over \$3 million in assets transitioned to estate plans. She also provides training for childcare providers, serving almost 300 people by helping them have a better understanding of asthma, triggers, signs of an asthma attack and how to create an asthma action plan.

Ms. Thomas' numerous state, regional, and national awards and recognitions demonstrate her commitment to excellence in all she does. If selected, I have no doubt that Keishon will do a wonderful job in this important role to NEAFCS. Her enthusiasm is infectious, and her dedication and commitment are without question. Ms. Thomas is a talented and innovative faculty member our specialists and researchers seek out for partnerships. She has worked tirelessly to grow and share her expertise with other agents and professionals in the state and across the country. Please contact me if I can answer any questions or provide additional information regarding Ms. Thomas and her suitability to serve NEAFCS as Southern Region Director.

Sincerely,

Laura Perry Johnson, PhD
Associate Dean for Extension

