



# 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: **VP FOR AWARDS & RECOGNITION**

Date: **4/27/2021**

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

|   |                      |   |       |
|---|----------------------|---|-------|
| Samantha  | Erin                 | Kennedy   |       |
| First Name  | Middle Name          | Last Name   |       |
| Extension Agent III, Family and Consumer Sciences |                      | University of Florida/IFAS Extension Wakulla County |       |
| Job Title   |                      | Employer  |       |
| 84 Cedar Avenue                                   | Crawfordville        | FL  | 32327 |
| Work Mailing Address                              | City                 | State/Territory                                     | Zip   |
| skennedy@ufl.edu                                  | imacatluvr@gmail.com |   |       |
| Work Email Address                                | Home Email Address   |   |       |
| (850) 926-3931                                    | N/A                  | (850) 329-6355 (H)<br>(941) 545-7347 (C)            |       |
| Work Phone/Extension                              | Work Fax             | Home Phone  |       |

## I. Education Background

### BS

Majors: Microbiology & Cell Science and Nutritional Sciences  
Institution: University of Florida  
Year: 2000

### MS

Major: Agricultural Education and Communication  
Institution: University of Florida  
Year: 2002

### PhD

N/A

*Please email one copy of your completed application to the National Nominating Committee Chair (NEAFCS Immediate Past President).*

## II. NEAFCS Experience

### Office

N/A

### Committee Chair

Awards Ceremony Subcommittee Immediate Past Chair (2021)

Awards Ceremony Subcommittee Chair (2020)

Awards Ceremony Subcommittee Vice Chair (2019)

Awards Exhibit Subcommittee Chair (2007-2011)

### Other Assignments representing NEAFCS

Diversity Committee Member (2021)

Awards Ceremony Committee Member (2018-2021)

Arrangements Committee Member (2018-2019)

Proposal Reviewer (2018-2019)

Awards Judge (2016)

Marketing and Promotion Subcommittee Member (2006-2007)

Awards Exhibit Subcommittee Member (2006)

### Annual Sessions Attended (list years)

2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2020

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): 2010, 2011, 2012, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021

*Proposal Type: Concurrent Session (2010, 2011, 2019, 2021)*

*Poster (2012, 2018, 2020)*

Award Submission                      Year(s): 2007, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021

### III. State/Territory Affiliate Experience Office

Past President (2010-2011, 2015-2016)

President (2009-2010, 2014-2015)

President-Elect (2008-2009, 2013-2014)

Editor, *Living Well News* (2006-2009)

South Central District Director (2006-2008)

Website Editor (2006-2021)

#### Committee Chair

Awards Subcommittee Chair (2018-2021)

Bylaws Committee Chair (2008-2009, 2013-2014)

#### Committee

Awards Committee Member (2017-2021)

Nominating Committee Member (2006-2008)

Youth Committee Member (2004-2007)

*Simply Florida* Cookbook Layout & Design Committee Member (2005)

Abstract Review Committee Member (2005)

### IV. Non-Association Extension Leadership Assignments

| Years     | Name of Activity  | Elected or Appointed |
|-----------|---|----------------------|
| 2020-2021 | NW District Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) Committee (Chair) | Appointed            |
| 2019      | Food Safety and Quality Common Objectives Task Force                          | Appointed            |
| 2018      | Mary Harrison Professional & Enhancement Award Committee                      | Appointed            |
| 2016      | County Extension Director (CED) In-Service Training Planning Team             | Appointed            |
| 2016      | National Extension Technology Conference (NETC) Planning Team                 | Appointed            |
| 2016      | UF/IFAS Extension FCS Visioning Team  | Appointed            |
| 2014-2016 | Urban Extension Task Force (Southwest District)                               | Appointed            |
| 2014      | Smith-Lever Planning Committee  | Appointed            |
| 2014      | Christine Taylor Waddill Professional Enhancement Award Committee             | Appointed            |
| 2010-2016 | New Faculty Mentor  | Appointed            |
| 2008      | Christine Taylor Waddill Professional Enhancement Award Committee             | Appointed            |
| 2008      | Seafood Safety Task Force   | Appointed            |

|           |   |           |
|-----------|---|-----------|
| 2007      | Nutrition, Food Safety, and Health Task Force | Appointed |
| 2006-2007 | 4-H Nutrition Curriculum Task Force           | Appointed |

#### V. Membership/Leadership in Other Organizations

| Association   | Role                              | Years           |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Florida Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (FAFCS) | President                         | 2020-2021       |
|   | President-Elect                   | 2019-2020       |
|   | Vice President for Public Affairs | 2009-2013       |
|   | Newsletter Editor                 | 2009-2014       |
| Extension Professional Associations of Florida (EPAF)       | Program Book Editor               | 2010, 2017-2018 |
|   | Board Member                      | 2008-2016       |
| Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP) – Alpha Delta Chapter               | Analyst                           | 2020-2021       |
|   | Chaplain                          | 2019-2020       |
|   | Member Services Committee Chair   | 2018-2021       |
|   | Annual Report Committee Chair     | 2017-2021       |
|   | Abstract Judge                    | 2017-2018, 2021 |
|   | South Central District Director   | 2014-2016       |
| Big Bend Hospice  | Advisory Council Member           | 2019-2021       |
| Leadership Tallahassee                                      | Affiliate Member                  | 2018-2021       |
| Coastal Optimist Club of Wakulla County                     | Member                            | 2018-2021       |
| Kiwanis Club of Bradenton                                   | Co-Chair of Agriculture Committee | 2013-2016       |
| Manatee County Government Green Team                        | Chair                             | 2013-2016       |
| Leadership Manatee  | Participant/Graduate              | 2006-2007       |
| Junior Leadership Manatee                                   | Board Member                      | 2006-2010       |
|   | Secretary                         | 2007-2008       |
|   | Board President                   | 2008-2009       |
|   | Past President                    | 2009-2010       |
|   | Website Editor                    | 2009-2019       |
| Healthy Start Coalition                                     | Member                            | 2004-2009       |
| Parenting Education Coalition                               | Member                            | 2004-2009       |
| America on the Move   | Advisory Committee Member         | 2006-2008       |
| Head Start/Early Head Start                                 | Advisory Committee Member         | 2004-2007       |

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

| Position                | Years     |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Student Assistant (UF)  | 1999-2000 |
| Graduate Assistant (UF) | 2000-2002 |

## VII. Awards and Honors

| Year                                     | Organization  | Award  |
|--|---|--|
| 2021                                     | Florida Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (FEAFCS)                    | Communications Award – Educational Publication                                     |
|  |   | Communications Team Award – Internet Education Technology (Team Award)             |
|  |   | Communications Team Award – TV/Video (Team Award)                                  |
|  |   | Extension Disaster Award (Team Award)  |
|  | Family Health and Wellness Award (Team Award)   |  |
| 2020                                     | National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (NEAFCS) – Western Region  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Place – Excellence in Multi-State Collaboration Award (Team Award) |
| 2020                                     | UF/IFAS Extension Administration  | Extension Entrepreneurial Team Award   |
| 2019                                     | Florida Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (FEAFCS)                    | Communications Award – Newsletter (Team Award)                                     |
|  |   | Communications Award – Written Press Release                                       |
|  |   | Communications Award – Educational Publication (Team Award)                        |
| 2018                                     | National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (NEAFCS) – Southern Region | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place – Excellence in Multi-State Collaboration Award (Team Award) |
|  | Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP) – Alpha Delta Chapter   | Mid-Career Service Award   |
|  | Georgia Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (GEAFCS)                    | Multi-State Collaboration (Team Award)   |
|  | Florida Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (FEAFCS)                    | Communications Award – Written Press Release                                       |
| Communications Award – Photograph        |   |  |
| Communications Award – Educational Piece |   |  |
| 2017                                     | UF/IFAS Extension Administration  | Mary Harrison Extension Professional & Enhancement Award                           |
| 2016                                     | Florida Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (FEAFCS)                    | Distinguished Service Award  |
|  |   | Program of Excellence (Team Award)   |
|  | National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (NEAFCS)                   | Distinguished Service Award  |
| 2014                                     | National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA)                                | Agricultural Awareness and Appreciation Award (National Finalist)                  |
|  | Florida Association of County Agricultural Agents (FACAA)                                 | Agriculture Awareness and Appreciation Award (Team Award)                          |
| 2013                                     | Florida Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (FEAFCS)                    | Program of Excellence  |

Please email one copy of your completed application to the National Nominating Committee Chair (NEAFCS Immediate Past President).

|      |   |  |
|------|---|--|
|      | Florida Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (FAFCS)                               | Excellence in Extension Award                    |
| 2012 | National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (NEAFCS)                   | Environmental Education (Team Award)             |
|      | National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (NEAFCS) – Southern Region | 1st Place – Environmental Education (Team Award) |
|      | Florida Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (FEAFCS)                    | Environmental Education (Team Award)             |
|      |   | Communications Award – Educational Publication   |
| 2010 | Florida Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (FAFCS)                               | New Achiever Award                               |
|      | Florida Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (FEAFCS)                    | Communications Award – Internet Technology       |
| 2007 | Florida Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (FEAFCS)                      | Educational Technology                           |
|      |   | Newsletter                                       |
| 2005 | University of Florida IFAS  | Silver IMAGE Award                               |

**Position Statement**

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

I have been in Extension for 17 years. I joined NEAFCS in my first year (2004) and in that time, I have been active in both my state affiliate in a number of board and committee roles and in various national committees. I very much enjoy giving back to an association that has done so much to support me in my career as a Family and Consumer Sciences agent and love working with fellow FCS colleagues to help them grow as professionals. I believe the next natural step to continuing serving the association is to serve on the national board. VP for Awards and Recognition is a good fit for me at this time since I believe that office provides a terrific opportunity not only to learn more about the inner workings of the association and the board itself, serving as a training ground for future board service, but would also allow me to put my excellent organizational and communication skills to work in support of the association. Also, I previously served as the chair of the NEAFCS Awards Ceremony Subcommittee, the chair of the NEAFCS Awards Exhibit Subcommittee, and am currently an active member of the NEAFCS Awards Committee, helping to coordinate and present awards at the national conference. I have also served as an awards judge for NEAFCS as well as a member and subcommittee chair of the Florida affiliate's Awards committee, providing me with experience that would aid me in that role at the national level.

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

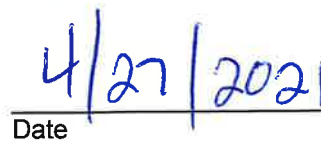
If I were elected as VP for Awards and Recognition for NEAFCS, my top priority would be to support association members and affiliate VPs for Awards & Recognition during the awards application process in order to ensure that the procedure is as smooth and painless as possible. I would encourage members to apply for awards, work with the Awards Committee and its various subcommittees to ensure that award applicants and recipients are properly recognized and honored, and provide updates as needed regarding any changes to awards. I would also make it a priority to learn more about the business side of the association and work to support members and other board members in any way necessary. As part of the national board, it would also be my responsibility to represent the association and the FCS profession in a professional manner by setting an example of excellence and dedication for other members as well as people outside the association.

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

  
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)*

*Please email one copy of your completed application  
to the National Nominating Committee Chair (NEAFCS Immediate Past President).*



UF/IFAS Extension  
Office of the Dean for Extension

PO Box 110210  
Gainesville, FL 32611  
352-392-1761  
extadmin.ifas.ufl.edu

April 8, 2021

Dear NEAFCS Nominating Committee:

It is my pleasure to support Samantha Kennedy's nomination for the office of Vice President of Awards and Recognition on the NEAFCS national board. I have known Samantha for 12 years, working with her as a County Extension Agent and former County Director. I know her to be a very knowledgeable educator and dedicated professional.

Samantha has served in a variety of service and leadership roles, both in UF/IFAS Extension and in her professional associations, including the Florida Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (FEAFCS), the Florida Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (FAFCS), and Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP). Sam has served as Florida affiliate president twice and she chaired a number of committees and subcommittees at both the state and national levels. Sam has always been willing to lend her time, expertise, and skills to support her FCS colleagues.

Samantha's attention to detail, proficiency with a variety of electronic communications, and excellent organizational skills would make her an asset as NEAFCS VP of Awards and Recognition. She has served in similar capacities in other organizations, including the awards chair for the Alpha Delta chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi for several years running, and she has been an active member – including the chair – of the NEAFCS Awards Ceremony Subcommittee for many years.

During her Extension career, Sam has earned a number of awards and honors at the state, regional, and national levels reflecting both her good work and the esteem in which she is held by her peers. Many of these are team awards, reflecting her ability to work well with others.

Samantha's record of service and leadership reflect her passion for and dedication to the Family and Consumer Sciences profession. She always encourages and supports her colleagues and enjoys watching them succeed as professionals. All of these attributes would make her an asset to the NEAFCS national board.

For all of these reasons, I strongly endorse Samantha Kennedy's nomination for the office of VP of Awards and Recognition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Thomas A. Obreza'.

Thomas A. Obreza, Interim Dean and Director  
Florida Cooperative Extension Service

*The Foundation for The Gator Nation*  
An Equal Opportunity Institution





UF/IFAS Extension  
Michael S. Gutter  
Office of the Dean for Extension

1020 McCarty Hall D  
P.O. Box 110210  
Gainesville, FL 32611-0210  
352-392-1761  
[msgutter@ufl.edu](mailto:msgutter@ufl.edu)

April 20, 2021

Dear NEAFCS Nominating Committee:

It is my pleasure to support Samantha Kennedy's nomination for the office of Vice President of Awards and Recognition on the NEAFCS national board. I have known Samantha for many years, working with her in many capacities through her Extension work and know her to be a very knowledgeable educator and dedicated professional.

She has served in a variety of service and leadership roles, both in the UF/IFAS Extension system and in her professional associations, including the Florida Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (FEAFCS), the Florida Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (FAFCS), and Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP). She has served as the Florida affiliate president twice and has chaired a number of committees and subcommittees at both the state and national levels. She has continuously demonstrated a willingness to lend her time, expertise, and skills in support of her FCS colleagues.

Samantha's attention to detail, proficiency with a variety of electronic communications, and excellent organizational skills would make her an asset as NEAFCS Vice President of Awards and Recognition. She has served in similar capacities before in other organizations, including the Awards chair for the Alpha Delta chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi for several years running, and has been an active member – including the chair – of the NEAFCS Awards Ceremony Subcommittee for many years.

During her Extension career, Samantha has earned several awards and honors at the state, regional, and national levels, reflecting both her good work and the esteem in which she is held by her peers. Many of these are team awards, reflecting her ability to work well with others.

Samantha's record of service and leadership reflect her passion for and dedication to the Family and Consumer Sciences profession. She is always encouraging and supportive of her colleagues and enjoys watching them succeed as new professionals. All these attributes would make her an asset to the NEAFCS national board.

For these reasons, I strongly support Samantha's nomination for the office of VP of Awards and Recognition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael S. Gutter".

Michael S. Gutter, PhD  
Associate Dean for Extension  
State Program Leader for 4-H Youth Development, Families and Communities  
Florida Cooperative Extension Service

## **IFAS Extension**

Wakulla County Extension Director

84 Cedar Avenue  
Crawfordville, FL 32327-2063  
Phone: (850) 926-3931  
williams.p@ufl.edu

Dear NEAFCS Nominating Committee:

It is my professional honor to support Samantha Kennedy's nomination for the office of Vice President of Awards and Recognition on the NEAFCS national board. I started working with Sam last June and I have been impressed with her dedication to stakeholders, UF/IFAS Extension and to the organizations she supports on a state and national level. Her 16 plus years prior to my arrival reads as an exemplary Extension career and NEAFCS would benefit from her expertise, dedication and drive to assist her professional peers on the next level.

One would expect service at this point in her career, but Sam does not seek these roles as a mere check list item, she serves to advance her peers and associations. Sam already has a variety of service and leadership roles, both in the UF/IFAS Extension system and in her professional associations, including the Florida Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (FEAFCS), the Florida Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (FAFCS), and Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP). She has served as Florida affiliate president twice and has chaired committees and subcommittees at both the state and national levels.

Sam's record of service and leadership reflects her passion for and dedication to the Family and Consumer Sciences profession. She always encourages and is supportive of her colleagues and enjoys watching them succeed as new professionals. Sam has received awards both on the state and national levels reflecting her professional regard from peers and shared team awards with them during her career.

Sam's attention to detail, proficiency with a variety of electronic communications, and meticulous organizational skills would make her an asset as NEAFCS VP of Awards and Recognition. She has served in similar capacities before in other organizations, including the Awards chair for the Alpha Delta chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi for several years running, and has been an active member – including the chair of the NEAFCS Awards Ceremony Subcommittee. All these attributes would make her an asset to the NEAFCS national board.

I encourage you to accept Sam's nomination for the office of VP of Awards and Recognition, both Sam and NEAFCS will benefit from this professional partnership.

Sincerely,



Dr. Patrick Neal Williams



Florida Affiliate

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April 19, 2021

NEAFCS Nominating Committee:

It is my pleasure to give support for the nomination of Samantha Kennedy for the office of Vice President of Awards and Recognition on the NEAFCS board. I have known and worked with Samantha for many years in many capacities through her Extension work and know her to be a very knowledgeable educator and dedicated professional.

She has served in a variety of service and leadership roles, both in the UF/IFAS Extension system and in her professional associations, including the Florida Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (FEAFCS), the Florida Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (FAFCS), and Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP). She has served as Florida affiliate president twice and has chaired a number of committees and subcommittees at both the state and national levels. She has continuously demonstrated a willingness to lend her time, expertise, and skills in support of her FCS colleagues.

Samantha's attention to detail, proficiency with a variety of electronic communications, and excellent organizational skills would make her an asset as NEAFCS VP of Awards and Recognition. She has served in similar capacities before in other organizations, including the Awards chair for the Alpha Delta chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi for several years running, and has been an active member – including the chair – of the NEAFCS Awards Ceremony Subcommittee for many years.

During her Extension career, Samantha has earned a number of awards and honors at the state, regional, and national levels, reflecting both her good work and the esteem in which she is held by her peers. Many of these are team awards, reflecting her ability to work well with others.

Samantha's record of service and leadership reflect her passion for and dedication to the Family and Consumer Sciences profession. She is always encouraging and supportive of her colleagues and enjoys watching them succeed as new professionals. It is clear that Samantha (Sam) has the attributes that would make her an asset to the NEAFCS national board. For all of these reasons, I strongly support Samantha's nomination for the office of VP of Awards and Recognition.

Sincerely,

Gayle Whitworth  
FEAFCS President

President – Gayle Whitworth, President Elect – Annie Wallau, VP Public Affairs – Jenny Rodriguez, VP Member Resources – Kim Griffin, VP Awards and Recognition – Ginny Hinton, VP Professional Development – Virgilia Zabala, Secretary – Laurie Osgood, Treasurer – Lisa Hamilton, Immediate Past President – Melanie Thomas, District Directions: Northwest District – Angela Hinkle, Northeast – Halie Corbitt, Central – Jana Anderson, Southwest – Shari Bresin, Southeast – Rachel Biderman, UF Campus – Dr. Amy Simone, Advisor – Dr. MichaelGutter



