

Dr. Barbara Woods exemplified excellence in service, leadership, and mentorship within the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (NEAFCS). Throughout her distinguished 36-year career in Extension, she showed unwavering commitment to advancing the profession while quietly elevating those around her. A trailblazer in her field, Dr. Woods was among the first women to serve in an Extension IT leadership role, setting a standard of innovation, integrity, and inclusion.

Dr. Woods' dedication to NEAFCS spanned decades and continued beyond her retirement in 2023, when she became a life member. She stayed actively engaged until her passing in January 2025, including participation in the 2024 NEAFCS Annual Session. Her service included roles as a state officer, national Endowment Committee member, and enthusiastic volunteer—always contributing with humility, reliability, and grace.

Known for her keen ability to recognize and nurture leadership potential, Dr. Woods encouraged colleagues to pursue professional growth through awards, presentations, and education. Her influence extended nationally through two decades of service as an evaluator for Extension's CYFAR project, where she strengthened communities and enhanced program impact across the country. A committed advocate for professional excellence, she also chaired the AAFCS Professional Certifications Committee for several years.

Dr. Barbara Woods' legacy is one of service, meaningful mentorship, and enduring impact visible in the programs and people she touched. She empowered professionals, strengthened communities, and advanced the mission of Family and Consumer Sciences through her work in inclusion, evaluation, financial literacy, and technology. Her life reflected the very heart of NEAFCS. For these reasons, the Iowa Affiliate believe she is richly deserving of this honor.