Dear FCS Teacher,

Every year the challenges facing families around the world grow more serious. Severe weather causing drought, food scarcity, major storms, and flooding are making changes, small and large, in the way our families around the world live. FCS professionals can play an important role in helping families adapt to these changes and some can even help to tackle the causes of the changes, global warming, directly. Your colleagues in the Apparel and Textile (AT) fields are eager to prepare future AT professionals who have the sustainability skills needed to help the AT industry, currently a major source of waste and pollution that is making climate change worse, reduce its wasteful and polluting processes all along the supply chain from fields to landfills. But in order to prepare these future AT professionals, we need your help.

Each semester eager students come to our majors without a solid understanding of the science behind climate change and without the STEM skills they need to have the impact the AT industry needs. FCS secondary teachers can help us by improving their own understanding of climate science so that they can find small but effective ways incorporating climate science topics into their teaching. The ATHENAS website ([www.athenas.ksu.edu](http://www.athenas.ksu.edu)) has learning materials that you can use to learn on your own and can be shared with your students.

Additionally, FCS secondary teachers can share the important message that AT education, including fashion design, requires STEM skills and that to succeed in AT programs at the post-secondary level, students should anticipate needing the math, chemistry, drafting and technology skills that FCS secondary teachers are eager to provide. The STEM posters are designed for your classroom and the classrooms of your STEM colleagues to help connect with students who are either interested in fashion careers but need encouragement to take their STEM courses seriously or for students who are already strong in STEM but might have discounted fashion as unlikely to provide meaningful career directions for using STEM skills.