Dear FCS Teacher Certification Director,

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 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 cause 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 to incorporate climate science topics into their teaching. FCS secondary teachers can explain to their students how it is the heritage of FCS to help families improve the quality of their lives by supporting sustainability. Finally, 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.

We have access to materials and learning units that might benefit your FCS Teacher Certification students and we would love to meet with you to talk about how your alumni can help us increase the impact that AT majors can have on sustainability.