



Sharing Our Professional Story: Charting Our Future In A Complex World

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We live in a complex world. Our profession drives the science and art of living and working well in multifaceted community systems, comprised of individuals and families. Participants, funders, and advocates might use the title “Home Economics” and/or “Family and Consumer Sciences” (FCS) to identify our profession. We must address the many dimensions of people in the context of their family and community. Preserving the human connection is vital to maintaining program sustainability in Family and Consumer Sciences education across the lifespan.

AGING AND LIFE TRANSITIONS

As we transition through various stages of the lifespan, we all experience changing needs. As individuals reach milestones in their lives, needs change. FCS helps individuals, families, caregivers, and communities age well. Educational programs include *Dining with Diabetes*, *Universal Design*, *Healthy Aging Telecast*, *Falls Prevention*, and *Simplify Your Space*.



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Quality early learning experiences increase school readiness, graduation on time, and lifelong success. Investment in early childhood programs may yield results as high as 13% ROI. (Heckman) FCS identified gaps in access to quality ECE professional development creating instruction: asyn-chronous, synchronous, and face to face aligning to current research and best practice.



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY AGRICULTURE

FCS connects families and communities to healthy foods through educational programming including food preparation, nutrition, managing chronic diseases, sustainable practices, food safety and home food preservation. Families and communities learn about food production from field to table by collaborating with *Agriculture and Natural Resources*, *Master Gardeners*, *4-H Youth Development*, *Farm to School*, and the *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program*.

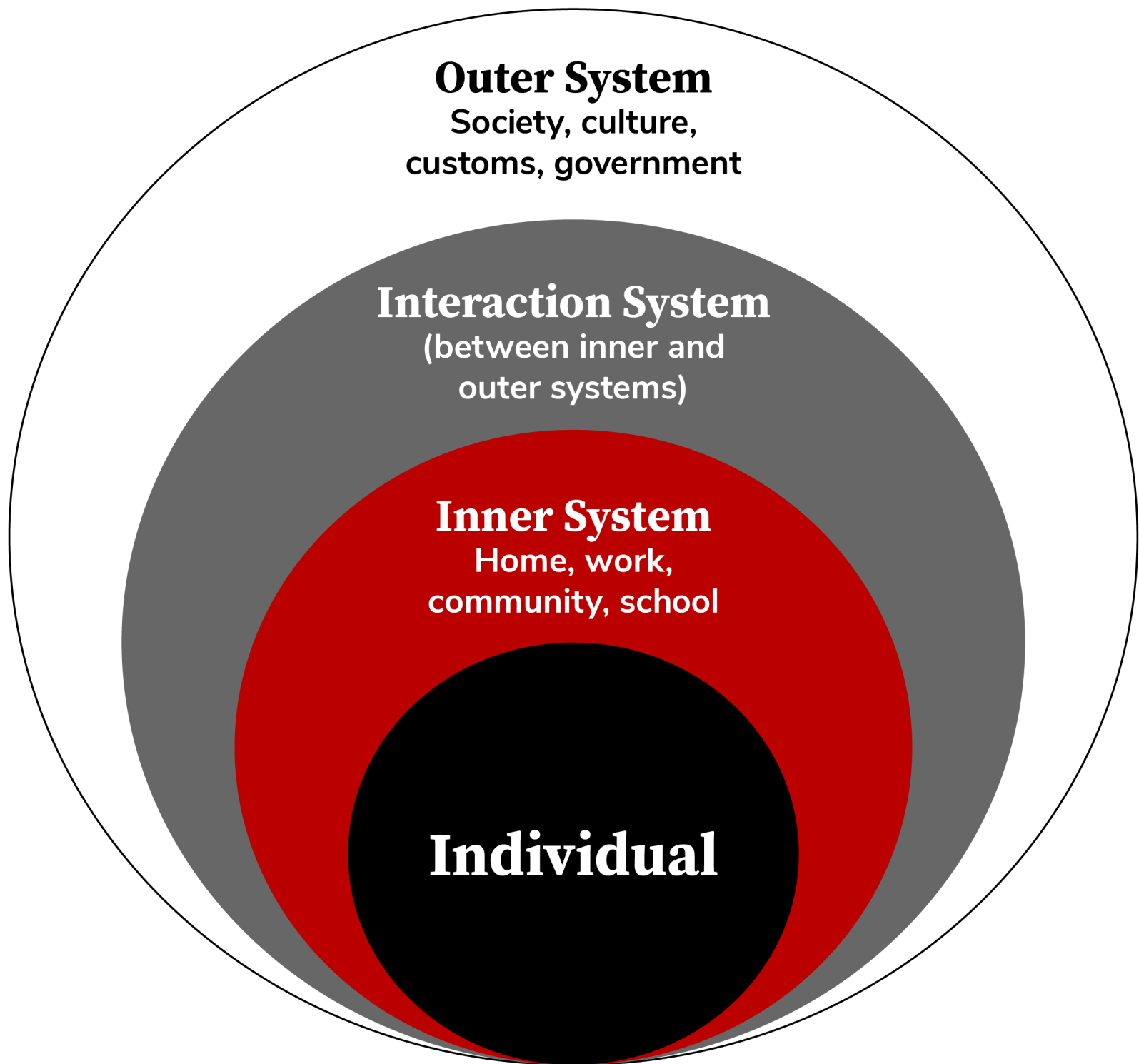


FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

Building family protective factors supports child well-being and family resiliency in the home environment. FCS supports skilled family engagement and advocacy in schools and communities. Parent education creates a strong workforce through increased family stability across the lifespan. Programs include *Strong Couples Project*, *Successful Co-Parenting*, and *Parent Café*.

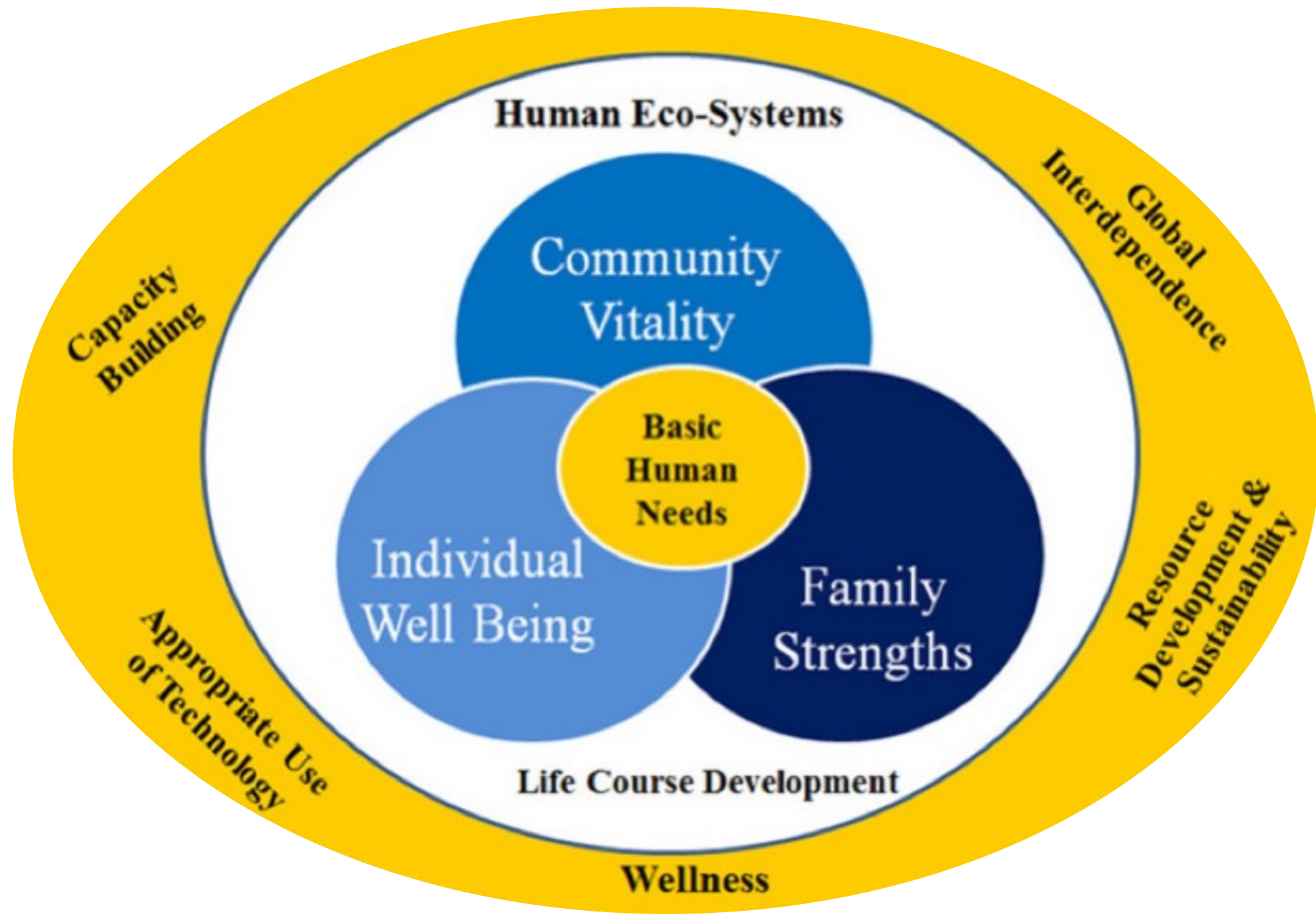


These models interface to continue guiding the work of Family and Consumer Sciences



Social Ecological Model

Just as Bronfenbrenner Social Ecological Model starts with the individual and expands outward, our work must be intentional about connecting theory and research to new educational endeavors. Adapted from figure 2, Scheer, 2021



FCS Body of Knowledge

The model is designed to present the concepts of Family and Consumer Sciences and to demonstrate their interrelationships, synergy, and interaction. Nickols, et al, 2009

FINANCIAL LITERACY

Individuals and families struggle to meet the economic challenges in today's world. One study showed 53% of those with higher financial literacy spent less of their income, and 65% had set aside a three-month emergency fund. (Lin et al., 2022) FCS professionals offer *Money Smart*, *Real Money. Real World.*, *Money 101*, and *Homebuyer Education*.



HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

We aim to create a healthier Ohio and world. Extension programs include *Project KIND*, *4-H Health Rocks*, sun and food safety, *Mental Health First Aid*, *Trauma Informed Care*, *Mindful Wellness*, *Public Health-AmeriCorps*, and *Generation Rx*. Participants increase their confidence, identify resources, and manage social, emotional, and physical well-being.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Leadership training for youth and adults is important in enhancing their career pathway and workforce preparation. FCS teaches knowledge, skills, strategies, and techniques to worksites and individuals that benefit the workforce and community and reduce social costs. FCS offers professional development training for high-school post-secondary credits, Early Childhood Education credentialing and *ServSafe®* certification. This allows workers to demonstrate their content knowledge and the professional certification improves their employability.

The Ohio State University is a land-grant Institution in the United States. The Extension system is the world's largest non-formal educational system. Extension efforts include research that informs policy and shares evidence-based efforts and outcomes of family sciences. Extension's hallmark is programming delivered by professionals to address the needs of the local community while also addressing state, national, and global issues.

Conclusion:

Family and Consumer Sciences needs to continue to conduct scientific research focusing on the FCS Body of Knowledge across the lifespan.

Evolving Conversations:

How can we continue elevating and connecting the foundational FCS Body of Knowledge and Research?

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REFERENCES

For more information including references, visit: go.osu.edu/complexworld

