In partnership with the California State University Long Beach (CSULB) Kappa Omicron Nu (KON) chapter, CA-AFCS held its second biennial Student Leadership and Research Conference on April 29, 2017 at the CSULB Student Union. Over 200 students and professionals attended the conference, themed “Reaching your Leadership Potential through Ethics of Care”. To determine the conference theme and program, Dr. Jody Roubanis worked with CSULB KON leaders and CA-AFCS Student Unit chair Sara Digre. Like the 2015 student conference at California State University Northridge (CSUN), the family & consumer sciences body of knowledge (FCS-BOK) was a big part of the program and video clips from Ted Talks were used to bring practical application of the FCS-BOK to challenges and issues relevant to the FCS profession today. See link for more specifics on how the FCS-BOK was used to determine the program.

There were 18 student groups and individual researchers who presented research or service projects. Both FCS honor societies were represented in the service projects, Phi Upsilon Omicron and Kappa Omicron Nu. Four schools were represented in the research projects, CSULB, Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU), San Francisco State University and CSUN. See link for conference program and poster presentation titles.

Behind the scenes, Dolores Robles was responsible for registration at CSULB and Dr. Diane Lewis Goldstein for CSUN registration. EEF grant recipient (and current CA-AFCS president) Dr. Gus Vouchilas tapped into his resources to bring geographical diversity to the conference’s afternoon leadership panel. CSULB KON advisor Dr. Richard Tuveson ensured excellent communication between organizations. CSULB student Jared Gabaldon provided facilities planning and the technical support during the conference. CSULB KON student Anne Esperanzate served as the volunteer coordinator.

During the planning phase of the conference, CSULB faculty Dolores Robles encouraged keeping the student registration fee at $10.00 to ensure high student turnout. Approximately 80% of the students who did attend the conference were from CSULB. Students who attended the conference from PLNU and CSUN were sponsored by their FCS departments. To keep the student registration to the cost of the lunch, CSULB KON generously paid for all printing and the facilities fees. Additional support for the conference came from the two exhibitors (HETAC and Cooperative Extension) and sponsors (Rene Ketchum of WAFCS, Crystal Aurelio, Emily Burdick, Dolores Robles, Noemi Rodriguez, Dr. Richard Tuveson and Dr. Diane Lewis Goldstein).

At the end of the conference during the open mike portion, CSULB fashion design student Mimi Lee said that she will always remember her experience at the conference because of how her peers listened to her ideas for a toilet paper dress design competition. For social media posts about the conference use #FCScare and for a video of the conference highlights go to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2UieBiDy260&feature=youtu.be
Mimi Lee is pictured in the middle of the toilet paper couture design models.

Undergraduate and graduate students from California universities and colleges presented posters.

Leadership Panel members shared how they apply an ethic of care to their work.

Dr. Jody Roubanis discusses the FCS Ethic of Care with students.

San Francisco State University will be hosting the 2019 CA-AFCS Student Leadership and Research Conference.