



Sara Patenge started her career as a Home Economics teacher at Poston Junior High in Mesa, Arizona after graduating from Arizona State University in 1979. She started her first FHA chapter the follow school year. In 1981 she transferred to Mountain View High School, also in Mesa, and became the Advisor/Coordinator for the HERO co-op work study program. Over the past 25 years she has been active with both HERO and FCCLA (FHA) chapters on her campus and served many of those years in various offices on the Arizona FCCLA Board of Directors as well as on the Arizona FACS Ed Board. Sara always takes her entire HERO class to the state meetings and is proud that her numerous STAR Events competitors at nationals have always earned gold level recognition. She served for four years on the FCCLA National STAR Events Advisory Team (SEAT) Committee and has been recognized as a both a Master and Mentor Advisor as well as a Spirit of Advising Award recipient. In addition to teaching the HERO co-op program, Sara typically teaches several sections of the Principle and Practices of Economics course in addition to being the Teacher/Advisor of the Teacher Training Program on her campus. She eagerly tries new and innovative teaching strategies and encourages students and peers alike to do just a bit more than they thought they could do. Her motivation for teaching and advising is ‘doing good things for kids’ which she plans to continue to do for several more years before retiring.