

Director—At Large Irene Leech, Ph.D.

Current Position:

Associate Professor, Department of Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, College of Liberal Arts & Human Sciences, Virginia Tech.

Academic Background:

Ph.D., Family Resource Management, Virginia Tech, 1989.

M.S., Housing and Household Equipment, Virginia Tech, 1982.

B.S., Clothing, Textiles and Related Arts, Extension and Education, Virginia Tech, 1980.

ACCI Activities:

Conference Program Chair, 2011.

Conference Proceedings Editor, 1997-99.

Consumer Education Committee, Chair 2007-08.

Member since 1981.

Other Professional Activities and Honors:

American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, Extension Section Chair, 1999-2002; Secretary-Treasurer, 1997-99; State President's Unit, 1990-91.

Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education, Board, 2009-11.

Consumer Federation of America, President, 2001-03 and 2005-07; Vice President, 1998-2001, 2003-05 and 2007-Present.

Federal Communications Commission Consumer Advisory Committee, Representing the Consumer Federation of America, 2009-10.

National Association of Personal Financial Advisors, Consumer Representative, 2004-2010.

Underwriters Laboratories Consumer Advisory Council, 2003-Present.

United States Department of Agriculture Meat and Poultry Consumer Advisory Committee, 2001-2008.

Virginia Attorney General's ID Theft Task Force, 2002.

Virginia Citizens Consumer Council, President, 1997-Present; Vice President, 1992-96.

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Consumer Advisory Committee Chair, 1999-Present; Food Safety Committee, 2000-Present.

Virginia Governor's Energy Policy Advisory Committee, 2007-09.

Virginia State Corporation Commission, Energy Choice Education Committee, 2000-2005; Energy Education Committee, 2009-Present.



Statement of Goals for Office:

ACCI is a critical element of a complete consumer protection effort in the United States. We have a long and proud history and many national leaders have come from our ranks. We represent the academic aspect and have an obligation to support research, education at all levels of the educational system, and policy.

Our world, organizations, government agencies, and universities continue to evolve at a faster and faster rate. ACCI must adapt to continue to be relevant to future professionals and consumers. We need to be sure that our research and teaching and other efforts are useful to decision makers and consumers. We need to work more closely with both the entities we've traditionally had ties with and with others.

Much of the focus of my work is in the policy area and I have experiences and memberships that can be useful to ACCI. I believe that there are many under or unused opportunities for our members and ACCI as an organization to contribute to and participate in the policy process. This does not mean that each of us has to be a registered lobbyist or has to write letters to the editor, but there are ways that each of us can contribute to policy.

I seek a seat on the ACCI board to work with other members to move ACCI forward and assure that it is useful and relevant to its members and our world.