



**Martie Gillen**

**Candidate for Board Director**

### **Current Position**

- Associate Professor and State Extension Specialist, University of Florida, Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences
- Program Director, UF Certified Financial Planner Program
- Program Director, UF Accredited Financial Counselor Program

### **Academic Background**

Dr. Gillen earned her Ph.D. from the Department of Family Studies at the University of Kentucky. She also earned a Graduate Certificate in Gerontology and a Graduate Certificate in Applied Statistics from the University of Kentucky. She holds an MBA from Sullivan University and has completed certifications in Trauma and Resilience at Florida State University. Additionally, Dr. Gillen is an Accredited Financial Counselor, a Certified Family Life Educator, a Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) Practitioner, and a Financial Social Work Educator.

### **ACCI Activities**

Dr. Gillen has been a member of the ACCI since 2007, initially joining as a student and later as a professional. Dr. Gillen has had numerous presentations at the ACCI spanning over 11 conference years. Dr. Gillen has contributed to the ACCI in several key roles, including serving on the Publications Committee, chairing the Awards Committee, and reviewing conference submissions. She was honored with the Applied Consumer Economic Award and, as a student, received the Student Travel Grant Award. Additionally, Dr. Gillen has published in the *Journal of Consumer Affairs*, further demonstrating her commitment to advancing consumer research and policy.

### **Other Professional Activities and Honors**

Dr. Gillen served as the Executive Director for the Family Economics and Resource Management Association from 2016 to 2023. She has served as the 2015 conference co-chair elect for the Family Science Association and a member for the Finance Task Force for the Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education from 2013 to 2015. Additionally, Dr. Gillen served as an Associate Editor for the *Journal of Family Economic Issues* (2019–2023) and the *Journal of Financial Therapy* (2012–2015). She currently serves on the editorial boards for *Financial Services Review* and the *Journal of Financial Therapy*, continuing her involvement in shaping research and practice in the field.

### **Memberships**

North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture, National Council on Family Relations, Family Economics and Resource Management Association, Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education, Family Science Association National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, and Florida Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.

### **Awards**

2024, Outstanding Specialist. Florida Association of Extension 4-H Agents.

2020, University of Florida Superior Accomplishment Award in Community Service

### **Research Interests**

Dr. Gillen's research program focuses on family stability, examining the factors, processes, interventions, and policies that promote resilience, cohesion, and well-being within families. She currently leads the Florida Youth Experiences Study (FL YES), a five-year longitudinal study. FL YES provides a comprehensive view of youth who are aging out of foster care in Florida as they transition to adulthood.

### **Teaching Interests**

Dr. Gillen works to increase students' financial literacy by teaching a large-enrollment undergraduate course in personal and family financial planning. In addition, she prepares students for careers in human services, including child welfare. She also teaches a master's capstone course, where she mentors students as they develop and complete a capstone project that applies their graduate coursework to solve real-world problems.

### **Statement of Goals for Office**

As a candidate for the board member position of the American Council on Consumer Interests (ACCI), my goals are to advance the organization's mission of enhancing consumer and family economic well-being. I will work to **strengthen consumer education** by supporting initiatives that improve financial literacy and consumer rights awareness, empowering individuals to make informed decisions. I am also committed to **enhancing professional development opportunities** and **fostering collaborations** among industry leaders, researchers, and policymakers to maximize our collective impact on consumer and family economic well-being. Additionally, I will prioritize **increasing ACCI's visibility** to ensure our research reaches a broader audience, providing greater opportunities to inform policy. By collaborating with key stakeholders and expanding outreach, I aim to help ACCI continue to lead in consumer policy research and education.