



MISSOURI
SCHOOL
NUTRITION
ASSOCIATION

Feeding Bodies. Fueling Minds.™

MISSOURI SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION

Messenger

THE VOICE OF CHILD NUTRITION IN MISSOURI



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Letter from the President

I stare at a blank page and I don't even know where to begin on what to say to everyone! We've just survived a year like no other. No doubt, the most challenging year of everyone's career. The year the country learned we are essential. It was a year we made something out of nothing. We pivoted on a dime. We came up with multiple feeding methods and when that didn't work, or no longer served its purpose, we came up with more! We leaned on our vendors, needed their support and knew their struggles, as they knew ours.



As our school year is coming to an end and I reflect, what stands out to me is that I spent this year on edge. Just waiting for the next shoe to drop. Keeping my ears peeled for the next bit of changing information that was going to impact Child Nutrition, but hadn't been communicated... just yet. And, as if that wasn't already a daily task, it was a heavier albatross to carry... like a zillion times over!

However, I was recently asked, what are you most proud of this school year? And there was no way I could limit my answer to just one thing! I am so proud of my team! Those who stepped up and were here and present to feed kids and their community when others were safe behind their computer screens. Those who worked tirelessly and thanklessly to ensure product was even at schools in order to be distributed. Those who endured the weather to distribute meal packs, when no one could have ever guessed that would become part of the job!

I am incredibly proud of the connections we made! Parents in our meal pick-up lines that got to meet the school nutrition staff and see the faces the kids do. Families that were so thankful we could provide them with food. Kids that were excited to see a familiar face and show us their teddy bear or leave us with a drawing as they drove through. Teachers that learned the work that it takes to get breakfast and lunches delivered accurately to the classroom.

But overall, I am just in awe that we did it. We did something we never had to do before, with absolutely no playbook. We figured out a way, did what we needed to do, worked with what we had, and got things done so kids were fed and nourished on our watch. Now that I think about it, that does sound like pretty much every other school year of my career! And I sure hope upon reflection there are multiple things you are proud of achieving this school year too. Take the time to relish in the fact that you did it!

Yes, it's been a journey, and it feels so hopeful to see things easing up and opening in the world around us. We are incredibly grateful planning of the annual conference is again well underway! November 19-21, 2021 will be All About the Journey, as we Don't Stop Believing! How great will it be to be together again? It will be an honor to see you there! In the meantime, enjoy your summer!

Sarah Chellberg,
MSNA 2020-2021 President

"Meals on the Bus" Program

Kansas City, MO dietitian's "Meals on the Bus" program is a community lifeline for Kansas City Public Schools Students.



Hannah Thornburgh, MA, RD, LD shared the challenges and silver linings of her inaugural, COVID-19 year in child nutrition services with school meals champion and "Tips for School Meals That Rock" creator, Dayle Hayes, MS, RD on Hayes' school nutrition program blog. Read about Hannah's frontline work to increase food security and equity using 190 bus stops to distribute meals to students.

Link to blog post: <https://cutt.ly/YbDmuiR>

NEW - Professional Standards Page on the MSNA Website

The MSNA Website has a new page, with everything you need to know about Professional Standards! With links to USDA's professional standards requirements, links to SNA's professional standards tools, and links to multiple sources of professional standards hours, this is THE PLACE for everything related to professional standards. Check it out: <https://www.mosna.org/professional-standards/>. Save this page as a favorite in your web browser, so you can return again and again. You can even share this link to friends and coworkers, so they can have quick and easy access to professional standards information.



Shannon Ebron, FSD,
Riverview Gardens
School District
Chair, Nutrition
Education Committee



Jenna Knuth, FSD, North
Kansas City Schools
Chair, Professional
Development/
Certification Committee



Dan McCullough,
Central Region Sales
Manager, Peterson
Farms Fresh, Inc.,
Chair, Industry Partners
Committee

A Message from the Industry Partners Committee Chair

Greetings to all my Missouri friends, colleagues, and partners in feeding children in Missouri. The 20-21 school year has been one to remember, but one which many would just as soon like to forget. One thing is certain; we all found out that we can overcome and do things we were not sure we were capable of just a short time ago. In short, feeding kids in person, virtually, or both in the same days, became the norm. Zoom became the new way of conducting business meetings, while being able to make eye contact and still see each other. All this, while those in the schools were trying to keep staff, students and families healthy and happy over the last year. Thank goodness for universal free meals during this time... what a blessing that has been!

As the newly-appointed Industry Partners Chair, I have to say... I miss everyone! I really didn't know I would miss food shows so much, but it is good for the soul to shake hands, smile, and catch up with everyone in person. All we have gone through makes me realize how lucky we are to be in this line of work. School nutrition professionals and industry work very well together to achieve the common goal of making sure all children have access to healthy and delicious food. It isn't easy, but it is important work, and the work continues. We have all adapted, grown and learned new ways of doing things.

Will it return to normal (whatever that is)? I'm not sure it will ever be completely the same. Zoom, and other online meeting formats, will be used still in the post-Covid world to save expenses and time. But, I do hope we can get back to more in-person time together, which brings me to the 2021 Missouri SNA Conference. As Industry Partners Chair, I am thrilled that we can have the conference in person in November. With many changes still, we don't know exactly what it will look like yet. However, we know that most people are yearning for reconnecting and relationship-building.

With much consideration, we did change some sponsorship levels for the 2021 conference. Industry, just like we need to reconnect with schools and our friends in school nutrition, they need us as well. Please consider sponsorship levels, and commit to supporting the conference and Missouri SNA. We know things have been challenging, but as we move forward, we all need to support each other, and continue to step up and challenge ourselves to adapt and grow.

I look forward to November. Until then, stay happy, healthy and safe, and keep up the great work!

Membership Update

EOY, MOY, DOY

Congratulations are in order for our 2020-2021 recipients of the Employee of the Year Award, the Manager of the Year Award, and Director of the Year Award!

Rosanne Curliss, Lee's Summit R-VII, is our Employee of the Year; Janet Grube, Lee's Summit R-VII, is our Manager of the Year, and Lori Danella, Lee's Summit R-VII is our Director of the Year.

These ladies will receive complimentary registration to the SNA 2021 Annual National Conference in July and complimentary registration to the 2021 MSNA Annual Conference. They will also be recognized during our Annual Conference in Kansas City in November.



Irene Wan, FSD,
Maplewood Richmond
Heights School District
Chair, Membership/
Awards/Scholarship
Committee

3% Participation Awards

MSNA is continuing our celebration of school districts who have increased their participation this school year. Because of how crazy things were, we have adjusted how we are calculating participation for this year's awards. Instead of using Average Daily Attendance and Average Daily Participation, we are strictly using Meal Counts. Some of us were in different learning categories (virtual/hybrid/traditional), so we wanted to be as inclusive as we could. We believe this was a good way to incorporate the different learning models without having to disqualify a district.

To see if your school qualifies, please visit www.mosna.org/awards to download the forms for Breakfast and Lunch. The deadline for submission is July 1, 2021.





Amanda Reed is the Raymore-Peculiar School District's 2021 Support Staff Employee of the Year

Congratulations to the Raymore-Peculiar School District's 2021 Support Staff Employee of the Year Amanda Reed! Reed is the child nutrition manager at Eagle Glen Elementary School.

As the winner, Reed receives a \$500 cash award, a desk award, and banners for her school.

Reed has been working for the district since March 2016. In her position, she manages a team in the kitchen, follows recipes and guidelines to ensure safe and nutritious meals, orders supplies and completes paperwork, and maintains excellent customer service.

Before working at Ray-Pec, Reed worked as a billing specialist and collector for Lincare in Lenexa, Kan., and as the front desk clerk at the Comfort Inn in Belton. Reed lives in Harrisonville with her mother, her daughter, one of her sons, and a 4-year-old nephew that she is raising.

"In 2016, I decided to come aboard and joined the Child Nutrition team," she said. "It has been, by far, the most rewarding job I have ever had. If I had known sooner, I could have enjoyed more time with my children as they grew up. I recommend the district to all that I meet, not only for education, but for career purposes."

In her spare time, she loves to fish, spoil her 1-year-old grandson, and look for extraordinary hats to wear at school.



Amanda Reed, center pictured with Dr. Bryan Pettengill, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services and Sarah Chellberg, Director of Child Nutrition



Eagle Glen Elementary Cafeteria staff poses with yard décor placed in school lawn! From left, Sarah King, Amanda Reed, Tina Baitinger, Charla Zwartz

Conference

Annual Conference

Holiday Inn KCI Airport & KCI Expo Center, Kansas City, MO

November 19 - 21

2021



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE JOURNEY,

Don't Stop Believing!

Annual Conference Speakers



Friday, November 19

Pre-Conference Speaker

Scott Lesnick

“Navigating Change” & “Successfully Blending the Five Generations”

<https://scottlesnick.com/>



Saturday, November 20

Opening Keynote Speaker

Kay Frances

“Managing the Stress of Change”

www.KayFrances.com



Sunday, November 21

Closing Keynote Speaker

Patrick Henry

“Tell Me About You: Reclaiming the Human Connection in a Social Distanced World”

www.patrickhenrystpeaker.com/

DESE Update

Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) Summer Workshop 2021 has reached its max capacity and is closed for registration. All workshop classes will be recorded and available to watch at a later date. The FNS office will begin posting all recorded summer classes to the Food and Nutrition Services homepage the week of July 12, 2021, under Newsletters, Webinars and Workshops. A survey will be sent out for participants to obtain a training certificate for watching the recorded sessions.

Emergency Operating Cost During COVID-19

DESE Food and Nutrition Services has submitted an application and plan to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) on behalf of all eligible School Nutrition Program operators in the state. Schools will not need to do anything at this time to participate in this reimbursement. These funds will be provided through two temporary reimbursement programs: the School Programs Emergency Operational Costs Reimbursement Program and the CACFP Emergency Operational Costs Reimbursement Program. In most cases, reimbursement amounts are based on a proportion of the differences in monthly meal claims from mid-March through June 2020 as compared to the same time period in 2019. New operators will use an average of January and February meal claims in 2020 as the comparison period. Eligibility in the reimbursement program is limited to program operators that filed valid NSLP/SBP, including SSO and SFSP meal claims, for any of the months September-December 2020.

The reimbursement funds may be used to reimburse any local source of funding that was used to supplement the nonprofit school food service account during the reimbursement period to offset the impact of pandemic operations. The program operator must maintain documentation regarding the use of the reimbursement funds and report back to DESE FNS how the funds were spent. DESE FNS will continue to keep you apprised on the implementation plan, calculation of payments, and the timeline of funds. More information will be provided during the DESE Summer Workshops.

Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program

Updates have been made to the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) application [Information Letter](#) for the 2021-2022 SY. The letter and instructions to completing the FFVP Application Packet are also located on the DESE, Food and Nutrition Services [homepage](#) under [USDA Programs/Regulations](#).

Generally free and reduced price school meal data from the preceding October is used to identify elementary schools eligible to participate in FFVP in the subsequent school year. However, as many schools will not have accurate October 2020 data because of program changes due to COVID-19, DESE FNS will be using data from October 2019 to identify schools eligible to participate in FFVP for the 2021-2022 school year ([USDA Memo SP 05-2021](#)). In order to make this happen, our system will need an enhancement for schools that will not have accurate October 2020 data. The system will look for October 2020 Free/Reduced amounts for each site, if October 2020 is not available, then the system will look for October 2019 Free/Reduced amounts which have been allowed by USDA to use in school year 2021-2022 due to waivers. We hope to have this process completed by June 30, which does impact the application deadline.

Elementary schools with 50% or more students eligible for free or reduced price meals as of October 2020 or 2019 or CEP claiming percentage is above 50% can fill out the *USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable (FFVP)* Application to competitively apply to participate for the 2021-2022 school year.

The application deadline will be extended once the enhancement project is complete. The application must be completed via the [Web Application System](#).

Turnip the Beet!

Turnip the Beet is back! DESE is pleased to announce that the 2021 Turnip the Beet Award materials are now available on the [Turnip the Beet webpage](#). Please reference the Turnip the Beet webpage for additional materials such as nutritional guides and meal planning toolkits: www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/turnip-the-beet.

The Turnip the Beet Award recognizes outstanding summer meal program sponsors across the nation who work hard to offer high quality meals to children that are appetizing, appealing, and nutritious during the summer months. This award is open to Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option (SSO) sponsoring organizations.

Applications are due to FNS by September 10, 2021. Please email questions and nominations to Barbara.shaw@dese.mo.gov. Let us know if you have any questions, and we look forward to working with you.



Have you ever considered earning your SNS credential?

SNA established the School Nutrition Specialist (SNS) Credentialing Program in 1997 to enhance the professional image of school nutrition professionals, elevate professional standards and enhance individual performance.

The SNS Credential is a mark of excellence and achievement that reflects what it takes to manage school nutrition programs in today's challenging climate. The SNS Credentialing Exam evaluates candidates' knowledge and skills required to perform specific job activities related to managing or directing school nutrition programs.

MSNA WILL HOST AN EXAM SITE IN CONJUNCTION WITH OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE! NOW IS
THE TIME TO START PREPARING AND SIGN UP!

HOW TO APPLY:

Download and use the Handbook & Application to register for the exam.

[SNS Credentialing Handbook & Application](#)

Read the [SNS Exam Preparation Tips](#)

Purchase the [SNS Study Guide](#) (optional)

Location	Host/Meeting	Registration Deadline	Exam Date
Kansas City, MO	MO SNA	10/29/2021	11/19/2021



THERE ARE MANY GREAT BENEFITS OF BELONGING TO SNA

Feeding Bodies.
Fueling Minds.™



TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE TOP 10...



- 1** Free webinars on pertinent topics like food safety, food allergies and procurement
- 2** Tools to help you meet and track USDA's Professional Standards requirements for yourself and your staff
- 3** Educational conferences tailored to *your* needs and professional standards
- 4** Marketing tools to promote your programs to parents, students and the school community
- 5** Legislative and advocacy efforts
- 6** Certificate and credentialing programs for you and your team to grow professionally
- 7** Relationship building with key stakeholders and industry representatives
- 8** Professional development scholarships for you and your team
- 9** A subscription to SNA's award winning magazine, *School Nutrition*
- 10** Access to the latest news and issues from the SNA website and daily e-newsletter, *SNA SmartBrief*

Belonging to the School Nutrition Association is a smart investment in your program *and* your career.

www.schoolnutrition.org