

---

April 10, 2017

# Presenter Biographies



## Abigail Harper

Farm to School Specialist  
Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems

As the Farm to School Specialist at the Michigan State University (MSU) Center for Regional Food Systems, Abby works with K-12 schools and early care and education programs throughout Michigan to develop local food purchasing strategies. She is also responsible for the development of networks of National stakeholders to support local purchasing practices in early care and education programs, specifically around local food. She has a bachelor's degree in Public Health from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and a Masters in Agriculture, Food, and the Environment from the Tufts University Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy. Her background informs her work to support childhood health by increasing access to local food and supporting providers in following best practices, rules, and regulations.

## Adam Brumberg

Research Specialist  
Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics & Management, Cornell University

Adam is a Research Specialist in the Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics & Management at Cornell University and the Deputy Director of the Food and Brand Lab. Working directly with Brian Wansink and the Cornell Center for Behavioral Economics in Childhood Nutrition (BEN) co-director David Just, he coordinates academic and industry research conducted by both the Food and Brand Lab and the BEN Center. Adam joined the Food & Brand Lab after a lengthy marketing/sales career in the wine industry during which he worked with all the links of the distribution chain as well as acting as a marketing/research consultant to a variety of industry and non-profit clients. He is currently conducting research on how to adjust to an empty nest, given that his 2 daughters are out of the house.

## Alex Hyman, MPH

Program & Policy Analyst  
Nemours

Alex Hyman is a Program & Policy Analyst with the Nemours National Office of Policy & Prevention. She supports state/local grantees funded by CDC to explore integration of HEPA best practices into state level child health and early childhood systems.

## Alexandra Thurston

Administrator, Summer and Afterschool Nutrition Programs  
City of Fort Worth

Alexandra Thurston is the administrator of the summer and after-school nutrition programs for the City of Fort Worth. With a background that includes a decade in municipal government, several years in the private sector, and varying roles on committees, boards, and arts groups, Alexandra has seen business, communication and record management from many different angles, and shares what she has learned through those experiences to help others develop and improve their processes.

## Alexia Thex, MEd

Partnerships Manager  
National CACFP Sponsors Association

Alexia Thex is charged with forming mutually long-term, mutually beneficial partnerships with corporations and organizations that fit the mission of NCA. This includes sponsors and exhibitors for the Annual NCA conference. After earning a Master of Education degree in exercise physiology from the University of Texas at Austin and while working to develop health and wellness programs, Alexia realized the lack of funding available, which led her to a career in Development. She has raised funds for several organizations, first as a professional for the Downtown Houston YMCA and the Holocaust Museum Houston. Using her professional development expertise, Alexia has worked with the schools her children have attended to help them maximize their fundraising potential.

## Alexis Steines

Field Outreach Director  
Afterschool Alliance

As Field Outreach Director, Alexis Steines serves as the liaison between the Afterschool Alliance and its growing network of afterschool providers. She keeps the field up-to-date on the ever-changing afterschool policy landscape and mobilizes them to affect the development of afterschool-related public policy. Alexis also manages the Afterschool Alliance's national AmeriCorps VISTA project, focused on creating sustainable afterschool programs, increasing participation in the afterschool and summer meal programs and expanding access to STEM education afterschool. Alexis joined the Afterschool Alliance in June 2011 after spending five years with the School Nutrition Association, primarily as the Public Affairs Associate. In that position, she monitored federal and state legislation, including the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, served as liaison to several allied organizations, and assisted in managing media relations for the association.

## Alicia White, MS, RD

Chief of Nutrition Education and Promotion Branch  
USDA Food and Nutrition Service, Child Nutrition Programs

Alicia White is the Chief of the Nutrition Education and Promotion Branch of the Child Nutrition Programs of the United States Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). In this role, she leads the development of innovative nutrition education materials under the Team Nutrition initiative, which provides nutrition education and training materials to schools and child care providers participating in the Child Nutrition Programs, including the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Summer Food Service Program, among others. Ms. White is a Registered Dietitian with over 19 years of experience in community/public health nutrition at national, state and local levels. In addition to her current position, Ms. White has worked to develop and implement effective nutrition education for low-income families and children as a Nutritionist with the WIC and SNAP programs and as an Extension Agent with the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service. Ms. White holds a Master of Science degree in Nutrition and Bachelor's degrees in Biology and Psychology from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

## Allison Colman

Program Manager  
National Recreation and Park Association

Allison Colman is a Program Manager for the National Recreation and Park Association. Allison joined NRPA in February 2015 to work on their health and wellness portfolio, including NRPA's Commit to Health initiative. Prior to joining NRPA, Allison worked in the recreation field facilitating health and wellness programs across all populations. Combined with her work in other non-profits and organizations, Allison has extensive experience in public health and wellness program management and preventative health initiatives. She has presented at national and state-level conferences on NRPA's work including the implementation of the Healthy Eating Physical Activity (HEPA) standards, the USDA Child Nutrition programs, and NRPA's nutrition literacy curriculum, *Foods of the Month*. Allison has a Bachelor of Science from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA.

### Allison Nihiser, MPH

Health Scientist  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Allison Nihiser, MPH is a health scientist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC), Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity. Allison works on the Early Care and Education (ECE) team to develop guidance for states on improving physical activity in the ECE setting. Much of her work focuses providing technical assistance to grantees and partners on physical activity policies and practices in ECE. Prior to joining the ECE team, Allison's work focused on preventing obesity through school-based strategies. Relatedly, Allison authored CDC's School Health Guidelines to Promote Healthy Eating and Physical Activity and Body Mass Index Measurement in Schools. Allison has worked at CDC since 2004. She received two bachelor degrees from Miami University (Ohio) in Exercise Science and Zoology. Allison obtained a Master's Degree in Public Health from Yale University, where she focused on Chronic Disease Epidemiology.

### Amanda Tucker, BS, CHES

Child Nutrition Consultant  
Texas Educational Service Center Region 11

Amanda Tucker has been working with the CACFP program for over 4 years, including previous work with the Texas Department of Agriculture. She currently is a Child Nutrition Consultant providing technical assistance and training for all facets of CACFP and SFSP. Her love for getting children off to a healthy start comes from her previous work as a Nutrition Counselor and Nutrition Education Coordinator with the WIC Program. She has a BS in Nutrition from Texas Tech University and is a Certified Health Education Specialist. Amanda previously spoke at the National CACFP Conference in 2015 and 2016, the Texas State CACFP Conferences in July of 2015 and 2016, and the Hunger Free Texans Conference in May of 2016. Amanda specializes in developing budget, administrative, and financial management classes, but her passion lies in inspiring children and adults to try new foods and develop a life-long love of being a food adventurer.

### Amy Johns

Cook  
Gila River Headstart

Amy Johns has two years as Headstart Cook, loves working with kids, enjoys cooking traditional style and doing food activities with kids.

### Andrea L. Farmer, MS, RD, LD

Chief, Community Meals Branch Policy and Program Development Division Child Nutrition Programs  
USDA Food and Nutrition Services

Andrea Farmer, MS, RD, LD is a nutritionist with the USDA Food and Nutrition Service, Child Nutrition Programs. After enjoying a diverse career in dietetics, Ms. Farmer found her passion in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, first as a Compliance Specialist with the Florida Child Care Food Program, then currently with USDA. She is leading the USDA effort to create resources and guidance materials to help child care centers and home providers meet the nutrition, physical activity and screen time recommendations in the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. Ms. Farmer has presented at numerous national conferences.

### Andrea Rangel, BS

Health Educator  
YMCA Childcare Resource Service

As a Health Educator with the YMCA Child Care Resource Services, Andrea provides nutrition support and professional development to improve the health of preschool aged children. With a Public Health background, Andrea strongly believes in providing the appropriate resources for child care providers and schools in order for children to develop healthy eating

habits in the future. Andrea has a degree in Health Science and hopes to continue making an impact in the early child care setting to combat the increasing epidemic of childhood obesity.

### **Angela Young**

Operations Manager  
CenterPilot

Ms. Young has over 25 years experience as a CACFP sponsor of both DCH and CCC (including HS & EHS), and as a food program manager for a large metro non-profit. As an involved member and board member of her state's CACFP sponsors association, she has been involved in the development, testing and adoption of online claiming systems. Although her primary love is observing children eating healthy foods in the center environment, her second is helping CACFP professionals complete their work with less effort.

### **Ann Schuetzle**

Nutrition Education Director  
Heartland Child Nutrition

Ann Schuetzle has been the Nutrition Education Director for Heartland Child Nutrition, a state-wide sponsor in North Dakota, for 23 years. Heartland has successfully used the National CACFP Sponsors Association Child Nutrition Calendar as a basis for providers to earn continuing education credit. Ann has a degree in Food and Nutrition Education and has previously been employed by the ND Department of Education, in hospital food service, and as an educator in a supermarket chain.

### **Annette Hendrickx Derouin**

Director of Food and Nutrition Services  
Community Christian Schools, Institute of Child Nutrition

Annette Hendrickx Derouin is the Director of Food and Nutrition Services for Willmar, New London-Spicer, Montevideo and Community Christian Schools in Minnesota. She has worked in School Nutrition for over 20 years. She is a Registered Dietitian receiving her Undergraduate Degree in Dietetics from North Dakota State University and Master's Degree in Health and Nutrition Administration from the University of Minnesota. Annette has been the recipient of the Minnesota Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Recognized Young Dietitian of the Year Award, is a former State President for the Minnesota School Nutrition Association and has served on several state and national committees for the School Nutrition Association. She is a ServSafe Food Safety Instructor for the National Restaurant Association, and is a Trainer/Consultant for the Minnesota School Nutrition Association and the Institute of Child Nutrition. Annette is married and has two children who are both currently in college.

### **Antonia Marie Mercer**

Early Childhood Intervention Coordinator  
University of Illinois Chicago Partnership for Health Promotion

Antonia graduated from Benedictine University with her Bachelor's degree in Nutrition and Wellness and received her Master's degree in Nutrition, with a concentration in Public Health. Antonia has been teaching and providing nutritional services for nearly 10 years. One of Antonia's most monumental moments is when she was asked to teach the employees in the corporate office of Kellogg on how to maintain a healthy lifestyle while working in a fast paced work environment. Antonia is currently training, managing and overseeing the Early Childhood Intervention Program for the University of Illinois at Chicago's "Chicago Partnership for Health Promotion." The Early Childhood division offers nutrition education, nutrition related strategies, and innovative methods to increase physical activity for preschool aged children within low income neighborhoods. These services are offered in the Chicago Public Schools, home based and childcare centers. Additionally, the team provides Technical Assistance for childcare providers, while promoting Policies, Systems and

Environmental change, in order to help reduce the risk of childhood obesity. The work of Antonia's team was recently reported at the APHA's annual conference.

### **Ashley Smith**

Compliance Review Team Supervisor  
Virginia Department of Health

Ms. Woodson has worked for VDH since January 2013. Ashley has experience with both compliance and certification and training with the CACFP. She paved the way for advanced training by creating materials for staff and Virginia's partners and successfully guided complex sponsors through corrective action plans to ensure their continued participation in the program. Ashley has a Bachelor's degree from Johnson & Wales.

### **Barbara E. Martin**

School Nutrition Programs Consultant  
Institute of Child Nutrition

Barbara Martin is a Child Nutrition Programs Consultant and Trainer from Sheffield, MA. Prior to retirement in December 2011, she was a part of USDA's Food and Nutrition Service for close to 40 years. Barbara earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Russell Sage College in 1972 and completed the Food and Nutrition Service Leadership Institute Program in 2001. She received a Presidential Medallion from the American Culinary Federation for the School Lunch Challenges, and the Secretary of USDA's Honor Awards for her work with the HealthierUS School Challenge and the State Nutrition Action Coalitions. As Deputy Director in the Mid-Atlantic Region, Barbara had oversight for school meal programs, summer food programs, Farm to School Programs, and the HealthierUS School Challenge. Earlier in her career she also had oversight over the Child and Adult Care Food Program. Since retiring, Barbara has had the opportunity to pursue her passion for working with child nutrition professionals through on-site technical assistance visits and face-to-face trainings. She began working with the Institute of Child Nutrition in 2012. As part of the ICN, Barbara facilitated the 2013 meeting of the National Child and Adult Care Food Program Advisory Committee Meeting.

### **Barbara J. Smith**

Senior Program Analyst  
USDA-FNS-Child Nutrition Programs

Barbara J. Smith is a senior Program Analyst in the Program Monitoring and Operational Support Division of FNS' Child Nutrition Program. Her primary responsibilities are participating with Regional offices in CACFP management evaluations (focusing on the implementation of the SD and appeals processes) and coordinating CACFP Management Improvement Projects. She is the facilitator of the CACFP Management Guidance Workgroup; primary author/editor of the SD Handbook; a member of the CACFP TA Workgroup; a member of the CACFP Meal Pattern Workgroup; and a member of the CACFP Paperwork Reduction Workgroup. She has coordinated and participated on taskforces (federal/state/CACFP community) to identify effective methods of addressing CACFP fraud and abuse and improving Program operations. She has presented at numerous National CACFP Sponsors Association and National CACFP Professional Association Annual conferences. She has been recognized for providing expertise and unwavering support to the CACFP Workgroup project to assist in leading and managing a team to update and review guidance. Barbara has a BS degree in Foods and Nutrition from Hampton Institute; a MS degree in Food Service Management from Michigan State University; and has pursued further studies at the University of Maryland, College Park.

### **Bianca Smith, MDA, RD**

Washington Team Nutrition Grant Coordinator  
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

Bianca Smith (RD, Master of Dietetics Administration – Utah State University) has led the Smarter Lunchrooms Movement and Smarter Mealtimes in Washington State for the last two years. Her background in nutrition education and foodservice management inspired her passion for child nutrition program support. As the Team Nutrition Grant Coordinator in

Washington State, she has provided a number of trainings and workshops on Smarter Mealtimes and Smarter Lunchrooms, worked one-on-one with child care providers creating Smarter Mealtimes, and provided nutrition education to preschoolers.

### **Brandon Archer**

Compliance Review Team Liaison  
Virginia Department of Health

Brandon joined the VDH team in 2014. Prior to that, he was the Program Manager for the Day Treatment Program at a local nonprofit organization in Richmond, VA. Brandon attended the University of Virginia for Secondary Education while working in Charlottesville City Schools. Additionally, he worked in Alexandria and Richmond City Schools where he first became involved with the USDA through the SFSP while supervising a summer program for youth. Brandon brings to the table extensive knowledge about compliance in Child Nutrition Programs.

### **Brenda Bertrand, PhD, RDN**

Professor  
Dept. of Nutrition Sciences, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Dr. Bertrand is a Professor and Program Director for the Master of Nutrition Science at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) and a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist. Dr. Bertrand has both clinical and community experience in the assessment of dietary intake of diverse populations as well as design and implementation of community nutrition education programs. In the past 3 years, she has worked on an initiative between Nestle, UAB and Woodlawn Foundation (NUW) to provide early child nutrition education to parents and childcare teachers throughout the Birmingham area. NUW has evolved into the Birmingham Education-based Start to My Eating program (BestME), which is a research and nutrition intervention initiative designed to understand pivotal characteristics and assist childcare centers to improve diet quality in their centers. Today, she will be sharing with you research findings from the work her research team has recently completed.

### **Brenda Koester**

Assitant Director  
Family Resiliency Center at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Brenda Davis Koester is Assistant Director of the Family Resiliency Center at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her research and policy work centers around food insecurity; early care and education; children's feeding programs; and child and family health. Her work on the Child and Adult Care Food Program and Summer Food Service Program has been funded by the United States Department of Agriculture, Feeding America, and the Walmart Foundation. Ms. Koester holds a Master of Science degree in from the School of Labor and Employment Relations and a Bachelor degree in Communication from the University of Illinois.

### **Brendia Moses**

Director of CACFP and SFSP  
KCEOC Community Action Partnership

Brendia Moses of KCEOC Community Action Partnership of Gray, KY wears many hats in her daily schedule for KCEOC as the Public Resource Coordinator, her title even expands as far as into the food service area. KCEOC CAP was chosen to participate as a pilot program in the early 1990's but has grown into one of the most productive Summer Feeding Programs within the Appalachian region. For over 9 years, Brendia has served as the Summer Feeding Director and has fed over 62,000 meals during the 2016 months of June and July. The KCEOC CAP Summer Feeding Program service area consists of a four county rural area within the mountains of southeastern Kentucky. This extreme rural geographical area suffers from substance abuse issues which creates many barriers for the Summer Feeding Program. To overcome those barriers, the Summer Feeding Program has specialized in Mobile Feeding Sites that can distribute hot and/or cold meals, Monday thru Friday to children residing in low income housing units and mobile home parks. KCEOC developed and utilizes a special

resource in packaging, storing and transporting of meals. This makes the food both safe within the Food Safety Guidelines and when served it is pleasing to the eye and tastes great. These meals will help fill the nutrition gap and ensures every child will get the most nutritious meal they need. Brendia also serves as the Director of the At Risk After-school Program which is in its second year. This program serves meals to the local areas school and churches. During the school year, each child receives a healthy snack and supper. KCEOC's ability to partner with local churches, local merchants, schools and civic groups enhances the program in building a stronger successful program. On behalf of KCEOC and with great leadership, Brendia Moses has carried out the mission of recognizing human potential, improving communities, and creating opportunities for change.

### **Brent Chamberlain, MBA**

Business Development Director  
My Food Program

Brent has an MBA from the University of Michigan with a focus on Finance and Entrepreneurship. He started his career in the automotive industry, but found an opportunity in what has been considered a under-served sector to offer both a higher quality product and excellent customer service to people who are positively impacting the lives of children. He has a passion for strategic leadership, a relentless drive for results and recognizes that excellent customer service should be a company's top priority.

### **Brett Mitchem**

Special Nutrition Programs Training Coordinator  
Virginia Department of Health

Brett has been with VDH since 2010 when the State agency assumed oversight of the CACFP from the USDA. He is largely responsible for not only the training curriculum for the CACFP, but also for the majority of Virginia's new online payment system's design, testing, production and ongoing user functionality. Brett is the "techie" among the VDH team and he uses his expertise in technology to continually improve and streamline processes for the CACFP. He holds an undergraduate degree from Virginia Commonwealth University.

### **Brooke Hardison**

Director  
Office of Nutrition Marketing and Communications, USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion

Brooke Hardison is the Director of the Office of Nutrition Marketing and Communications within USDA's Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion. She leads the Center's nutrition education efforts, including promotion of *MyPlate* – the national iconic symbol for health eating – as well as consumer-based nutrition education resources and innovative digital tools available through the Center's website, ChooseMyPlate.gov. Prior to joining the Center, Brooke served as a senior communications advisor and spokesperson for USDA's nutrition assistance and education programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

### **Candayce Howard**

Program Specialist  
Our Daily Bread of TN

Candayce is a program specialist for Our Daily Bread of TN. She has worked in child nutrition food management for 10 years. She has also participated in farm to table programs, in which students grew produce and utilized it for lunch. Candayce has participated in many areas of child nutrition, from cooking fresh produce to foodservice management to composting. As a part of Our Daily Bread of TN, she works with the farm to table program called Taking Root TN, adding another layer to the nutrition cycle by bringing the healthy foods to classroom. Using indoor growing projects, Taking Root

plants the seeds for healthy eating. Candayce has a B.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences from the University of Mississippi, and she believes National Oreo Cookie Day should be a federal holiday.

### **Carolyn Miller, BS**

Child Nutrition Consultant  
Texas Educational Service Center Region 11

Carolyn is the ESC Region 11 Child Nutrition Consultant for CACFP and SFSP. She began her career in Child Nutrition in May of 2010. She works closely with the contracting entities in order to assist them in their application process, troubleshooting claims, and any request that Texas Department of Agriculture requires. She has presented at the Keeping Our Communities Healthy Conference and is passionate about feeding the children of Texas. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Tarleton State University with an emphasis in Business Leadership, Psychology, and Social Work.

### **Carolyn Wait**

Senior Program Manager, Center for Best Practices  
Share Our Strength

Carolyn Wait is a Senior Program Manager at Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry Center for Best Practices, where her focus is on improving and expanding access to the CACFP, especially the Afterschool Meals Program. Carolyn spent five years as a CACFP Specialist for the DC State Agency and was a National Nutrition Policy Fellow at the Food Research and Action Center. She is a Registered Dietitian with a Bachelor's in Nutrition from Ohio State University and a Master's in Public Health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

### **Cary Fulford, RD**

Nutrition Coordinator  
Acelero Learning

Cary Fulford is a Registered Dietitian and Nutrition Coordinator for Acelero Learning Wisconsin. She received her Bachelor's degree in dietetics at the University of Wisconsin - Madison and a Culinary Degree from Madison Area Technical College. Cary has been providing nutrition expertise in the Head Start setting since 2011.

### **Cherese Myree**

Vice President  
MH Miles Company, CP, PC

Cherese Myree is vice president of MH Miles Company CPA PC (MHMC). Ms. Myree is a certified fraud examiner and a graduate of Clark Atlanta University. She specializes in the USDA Food Programs and governmental compliance. She has over 15 years of experience in the fields of auditing, accounting, and consulting with specialized experience in governmental contract auditing and contract compliance. Cherese is a veteran presenter on financial management topics and is deeply versed on CACFP & SFSP program requirements. She testifies as an expert witness for the CACFP and SFSP and manages MHMC's review, consultant and training engagements across the United States.

### **Chris Primiano**

Executive Vice President  
Food & Supply Source

Chris Primiano has been the EVP/Partner of Food & Supply Source for the last four years. Prior to joining FSS to start the non-food division he spent six years as Manager of Strategic Sourcing for Bright Horizons Family Solutions, a Global Child Care organizations with over 1,200 locations worldwide. Chris was responsible for managing all buyers in the United States and consulted with the European/India buying groups. Prior to that, Chris has held numerous Purchasing and Operational Management positions for TJX Companies, Ames Department Stores and Zayre Corp.

## Christine Vineyard

Branch Chief  
USDA Food and Nutrition Service, Midwest Region

Christine Vineyard is the Branch Chief for the USDA, Food and Nutrition Service, Community Nutrition Program's Midwest Region. USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) leads the Nation's feeding and anti-hunger efforts. FNS' mission is to increase food security and reduce hunger in partnership with cooperating organizations by providing children and low income people with access to food, a healthful diet, and nutrition education in a manner that supports American agriculture and inspires public confidence. FNS offers 15 nutrition assistance programs.

## Clarissa Hayes

Child Nutrition Policy Analyst  
Food Research Action and Center

Clarissa Hayes joined FRAC in February 2015 as a child nutrition policy analyst. She works with anti-hunger organizations as well as with local, state and national governments to expand the use of afterschool and summer nutrition programs. Before joining FRAC, Clarissa was an anti-hunger program associate at Maryland Hunger Solutions (an initiative of FRAC) and worked to increase participation in the child nutrition programs across the state. She has also completed two years of national community service through AmeriCorps NCCC and AmeriCorps VISTA. Clarissa earned a Bachelor of Arts in English and Anthropology from the University of Wisconsin.

## Clayton Treska

Administrative Manager/Operational Efficiency Specialist  
UC San Diego Health System

Clay is a Healthcare Executive with 4 years of professional experience and 7 years of personal experience as a BMT cancer patient treated at UC San Diego's Moore's Cancer Center. Other titles include: A decorated 13-year combat veteran of the United States Marine Corps; a former Department of Defense Counterintelligence agent; Ironman World Championships Triathlon Competitor; a stage-four terminal cancer survivor; a cancer patient advocate; an avid public speaker for cancer related forums; a graduate from San Diego State University

## Conchetta Yonaitis, M.Ed.

Special Nutrition Programs Manager  
Virginia Department of Health

Chetta is the Special Nutrition Programs Manager with the Virginia Department of Health. In her current role, Chetta oversees the administration of the CACFP and the SFSP for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Prior to, she served as the Children's Program Manager for FeedMore, Inc., formally known as the Central Virginia Food Bank, as a sponsor of both the CACFP and the SFSP. Chetta has presented on a national level at Feeding America's annual Agency Relations and Programs Conference in Chicago, along with presentations at anti-hunger policy conferences in DC and PA. Ms. Yonaitis has an undergraduate degree in English and a Master's in Education from North Carolina State University. Chetta's professional focus remains with Child Nutrition Programs and researching new and effective ways to reduce food insecurity throughout the Commonwealth.

## Courtney Hardoin, MS, RD

Nutrition Education Specialist  
California Department of Education

Courtney Hardoin is a Registered Dietitian who earned a Master's degree in Nutritional Science with an option in Nutrition Education from California State University, Chico, graduating with distinction. Her past jobs include working as a Wellness Coordinator and a Clinical Dietitian. She has worked for over six years at the California Department of Education in various

roles, but Courtney's most recent role is Nutrition Education Consultant, where she is focused on training child nutrition program operators about properly conducting procurements using federal funds. Courtney also provides nutrition education for obesity prevention in early child care environments and oversees the Preschools Shaping Healthy Impressions through Nutrition and Exercise (SHINE) program.

### **Cynthia L Reeves, PhD, MPH**

Maui County Administrator--Cooperative Extension  
University of Hawaii at Manoa CTAHR

Cindy Reeves is the Maui County Administrator for Cooperative Extension. Prior to this she served both as the Director of Nutrition and Family & Consumer Sciences and as a National Program Leader for Nutrition, Health & Wellness at the USDA National Institute of Food & Agriculture (NIFA). Dr. Reeves has many years of experience on both sides of the granting process. She has successfully attained grants in the millions of dollars; and she has also developed RFAs and administered grants in her grant-making roles within NIFA. She has also developed and implemented successful grant-writing skills development courses at NIFA, for those who wanted to pursue Federal funding opportunities. She earned her B.S. in Biology from the University of Nevada, Reno; her MPH degree in Nutrition from the University of Hawaii; and her Ph.D. in Community Nutrition from the University of California, Davis.

### **Cynthia Snyder**

Childcare Specialist  
Novick Brothers Corporation

Cynthia is a Childcare Specialist at Novick Brothers and has been working with their 600+ childcare clients for more than 6 years. She brings with her 20 years of school food programming experience, with 12 of those years in early childhood. She is also a certified PQAS trainer. Being a lifetime member of Weight Watchers, Cynthia has a passion for educating her participants on the importance of portion control and healthy dietary choices. Cynthia lives in Collegeville Pennsylvania and is the proud parents of 6 grown children.

### **Daniel W. Hatcher, MPH**

Director, Community Partnerships  
Alliance for a Healthier Generation

At the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, Daniel is responsible for managing technical assistance services and resources for out-of-school time sites as they work to achieve the National AfterSchool Association Standards for Healthy Eating and Physical Activity Standards. Daniel oversees community-based and out-of-school partnerships at the Alliance. Daniel also serves as the chair of the technical assistance working group of the National Healthy Out-of-School Time Coalition. Daniel has a BA in International Relations and a Masters of Public Health, both from Western Kentucky University. Daniel regularly blogs on topics relevant to healthy afterschool at [healthiergeneration.org/hostblog](http://healthiergeneration.org/hostblog).

### **David Yates**

Scholar  
University of North Carolina Gillings School of Public Health

David Yates is a Visiting Scholar at the University of North Carolina Gillings School of Public Health, working with the Children's Healthy Weight Research group. In 2016, he was a fellow in the Harvard University Advanced Leadership Initiative. Previously, he was President of Nestlé HealthCare Nutrition, Inc. He joined Nestlé through the acquisition of Novartis Medical Nutrition by Nestlé S.A. At Novartis Medical Nutrition, Inc., he was the Regional Business Head for North America and previously held the same position in Europe. David joined Novartis with the Gerber Products Business Unit as Marketing Director and successfully advanced to the position of North American Region Head. During his tenure at Gerber, the Company initiated the Start Healthy, Stay Healthy program, with the goal of significantly improving the eating habits of children during the first two years of life. Prior to joining Novartis, he worked for Bayer AG and Alberto Culver in marketing

and business development roles, both in the United States and internationally. David holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and a Master of Business Administration in Marketing and Finance, both from the University of Chicago.

### **Dawn Perez**

Senior Implementation Specialist and Training Director  
Minute Menu Systems, LLC

Dawn Perez is the Senior Implementation Specialist & Training Director for Minute Menu Systems, LLC. Minute Menu Systems offers comprehensive management systems for child care agencies and providers operating under the auspices of the federal Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Dawn has personally helped over 200 Sponsors across the nation transition to Minute Menu software applications, including both Center and Home Sponsors. As one of the co-creators of the Minute Menu Training website (training.minutemenu.com), she manages and produces new content for the website in the form of documents, videos, blogs, e-Learning courses, webinars, and more. In addition to her current 12 year tenure with Minute Menu, Dawn also worked for Southwest Human Development Services, one of the largest sponsoring organizations in Texas. Dawn worked closely with child care providers, processing their claims and developing a thorough knowledge of CACFP regulations. Dawn has provided training workshops at the NCA conference, Roundtable conference, and Minute Menu conference, in particular, and has also provided training to Minute Menu clients and state agencies across the country.

### **Deanna Black Elk**

Cook  
Gila River Headstart

Deanna has sixteen years in Headstart, 14 years as a Teacher Assistant, and has a love for cooking. She loves to bake, do activities for kids and create new recipes.

### **Debra Ghia**

Vice President CACFP  
Lehigh Valley Child Care

The LVCC is the largest sponsoring organization in Pennsylvania, located in 20 counties that sponsors 600 homes and 20 centers serving over 4,000 children. Debra and the CACFP team at Lehigh Valley Children's Centers, Inc. have grown the program over the last 30 years to be the largest sponsor in the Commonwealth. Lehigh Valley Children's Centers' sponsorship is dedicated to incorporate fresh foods in their menus as well as being dedicated to educating providers on the importance of teaching good nutrition to young children. Debra's goal as a member on the NCA Board of Directors is to reach out to all sponsors to meet their needs. She believes in not only educating the child but also educating the entire family on the importance of good nutrition. She currently serves on NCA's governance and policy committee and is currently the Secretary of the NCA board of Directors.

### **Denise E. Laursen, RD**

CYS Nutritionist, Child Development Program Branch  
U.S. Army IMCOM-HQ, Family and MWR Programs

Denise Laursen is a Registered Dietitian and is currently the Nutritionist for the U.S. Army's Child, Youth & School Services Program. She graduated from Johnson and Wales University with a degree in Culinary Arts, and from Western Carolina University with a B.S. in Nutrition and Dietetics, where she also completed her internship. Denise has worked as a registered dietitian since 1996 in high risk maternity, as a public health nutritionist, as a WIC and Nutrition director, a special nutrition consultant for CACFP and SFSP in the state of North Carolina, and with the Army as a civilian dietitian. Her interests include child nutrition, obesity prevention, food insecurity, as well as culinary and sociocultural influences on dietary intake and nutrition.

### **Diane H. Craft, PhD**

Professor of Physical Education  
Active Play Books

Diane H. Craft, Ph.D., is a professor of physical education at SUNY Cortland. She has co-authored four books on developmentally appropriate, inclusive physical activity for young children including Active Play! Fun Physical Activities for Young Children. In addition, Dr. Craft has given over 200 highly-acclaimed presentations, workshops and keynotes on preschool physical activities to audiences across the nation. She is currently consulting with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention as the subject matter expert on early childhood physical activity. In this position she has consulted with over 30 states to date. Her work includes sharing strategies and resources, facilitating stakeholder meetings, and conducting trainings to assist states in promoting early childhood physical activity.

### **Diane Welland**

Manager of Nutrition Communications  
Juice Products Association

Diane Welland, is a registered dietitian and Manager of Nutrition Communications of Juice Products Association. In this position she uses her expertise to translate scientific nutrition information into layman's terms, manage nutrition policy and regulatory issues and evaluate nutrition science. In addition to working directly with the science community, Diane also communicates nutrition information to the media and the general public and often presents on nutrition issues. Before joining JPA she was a freelance food and nutrition writer, speaker, consultant and award-winning recipe developer, who wrote for a variety of consumer and trade publications, websites and blogs. She specialized in stories on food and food trends, nutrition, health and fitness and is the author of several diet and health books in the Complete Idiot's Guide series. Diane holds a Masters' of Science degree from New York University and dual Bachelor degrees in Communication and Human Nutrition from Rutgers University. She is an active member of the American Dietetic Association, Food and Culinary practice group and former chair of the Nutrition and Food Science Section of the International Association of Culinary Professionals. In her spare time Diane loves to cook, visit farmers' markets and travel.

### **Dianet Lopez Hernandez**

CACFP Program Specialist  
Texas Educational Center Region 13

Dianet Lopez Hernandez is the CACFP Program Specialist for the Education Service Center Region 13 in Austin, TX. She holds a Master's Degree in Health Education and Bachelor's Degree in Nutritional Sciences from Texas A&M University. As a CACFP Specialist in Region 13 she focuses on providing training and technical assistance to CACFP entities.

### **Dietrich Love, CMP**

Food and Nutrition Services Director  
Head Start of Greater Dallas

Dietrich Nickleberry Love is certified in Training and Development; holds an MBA from Texas Woman's University and has an undergraduate degree in Home Economics from Henderson State University. She is also Cooper Institute trained in Diabetes and Exercise, Program Development in Health Promotion, and Weight Management. She has 20+ years in child nutrition, food management systems and the (USDA) Child and Adult Food Program. She began a grass roots child wellness initiative called "Get a Head Start on Healthier Lives". This initiative has given the agency recognition in the community for creating innovative wellness programs throughout the city for 3,000+ preschool children. The recognition has afforded her the opportunity to share her expertise while serving as a steering committee member and work group member of "Charting the Course for a Healthy Future" an early childhood obesity efforts workgroup for Dallas County; Early Childhood Health Initiative committee member, an early childhood Health Alliance group that wants to bring the gap between health care professional and parents; and, Policy Committee member with Health and Wellness Alliance a committee that focuses on changing policies within the state that affects children's health.

## Dyan Schauer

Program Manager  
Tuscarora Intermediate Unit

Dyan Schauer is a Program Manager with TIU 11 Community Education Services and Workforce Services. She has worked with the Child Care Wellness project since 2009 developing technology and supporting early childhood education centers.

## Elisabeth Sweeting

Program Coordinator  
Office of the State Superintendent of Education

Elisabeth Sweeting, Summer Food Service Program Coordinator for the Office of the State Superintendent of Education in Washington, DC. As a former Deputy Sheriff and Special Education teacher witnessed first hand how good nutrition and engaging activities can transform a child's life. In 2010, Elisabeth began working with child nutrition programs, starting with the CACFP and the At-risk Afterschool Meals Program before moving over to the Summer Food Service Program.

## Elizabeth Dixon

Education and Training Specialist  
Institute of Child Nutrition

Liz Dixon is an Education and Training Specialist at the Institute of Child Nutrition where she develops free educational resources for schools and child cares. She has enjoyed creating free resources such as trainings, online courses, videos, and Spanish translations at the Institute since 2013. She did her masters in Food, Nutrition, and Culinary Sciences at Clemson University and her bachelors in Nutrition and Food Science at Auburn University. She is an ACE-certified personal trainer and AFAA-certified group fitness instructor and a member of the Institute of Food Technologists and the Society of Nutrition Education and Behavior. She has published two articles in *Topics of Clinical Nutrition*. Liz currently lives in Oxford, Mississippi, where she continues to work for the Institute developing new projects for both schools and child care. She is also pursuing a Health Coach certification to better educate herself on behavior modification and how to assist others in pursuing and achieving personal and work-related goals.

## Emilee Case

Farm Fresh Specialist  
Texas Department of Agriculture

As the Farm Fresh Specialist for the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), Emilee Case works directly with child care centers and local producers to facilitate strong purchasing relationships and robust farm to child care programs. She was a chef and wellness coordinator for four years in Austin, TX prior to her work with TDA and is currently pursuing a Master's in Public Health from the University of Texas.

## Emily Hulse, MS

Community Program Coordinator and NE Go NAP SACC Coordinator  
Children's Hospital & Medical Center

Emily has a Bachelor's Degree in Nutrition and Exercise Science and a Master's Degree in Community Nutrition. She is the NE Go NAP SACC State Coordinator, coordinating about 30 Go NAP SACC Trainers from a variety of agencies. Emily has worked in the early childhood field since 2011, focusing on the GO NAP SACC initiative. Emily has developed and delivered many trainings and workshops for both child care providers and trainers regarding GO NAP SACC.

## Emily Keenum

Health Initiative Coordinator  
Virginia Early Childhood Foundation

Ms. Keenum directs the implementation of National Early Care and Education Learning collaborative grant from Nemours and CDC, and leads the childhood obesity prevention work for the VA Early Childhood Foundation.

### **Erika Pijai, MS, RD**

Senior Nutritionist/Technical Advisor  
USDA Food and Nutrition Service

Erika Pijai the Senior Nutritionist/Technical Advisor for Child Nutrition Programs at USDA's Food and Nutrition Service. In this role, she manages nutrition education, training, and technical assistance for national Child Nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, and the Child and Adult Care Food Program, among others. Erika coordinates the agency's national sodium reduction initiative and leads efforts related to enhancing the school and child care nutrition environments. With Child Nutrition Programs since 2010, she has worked on the development of numerous nutrition education and resources that support the development of healthy eating and physical activity habits among children, including a comprehensive nutrition and wellness handbook for CACFP providers of young children. Erika is a Registered Dietitian and holds a B.S. degree in Nutritional Sciences-Dietetics from Cornell University, and a M.S. degree in Nutrition Education from Columbia University. Erika has received numerous awards related to her work in nutrition and dietetics including several USDA Abraham Lincoln Honor Awards, a USDA Cultural Transformer Award, and the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' Emerging Dietetics Leader award.

### **Erin Quann, PhD, RD**

Associate Director, Nutrition Research  
Gerber Products Company

Erin Quann, PhD, RD, is the Associate Director of Nutrition Research for Gerber Products Company. She is a Registered Dietitian and scientist with extensive experience in nutrition and exercise research, nutrition communications, education, and regulatory affairs. She leads the activation of Nestlé's Feeding Infants and Toddlers Study (FITS) in the U.S. in support of laying the foundation for healthful diets early in life. This includes providing scientific insights on the diets and lifestyle habits of infants and young children to help optimize nutrition education and eating habits for children at home and away from home. Previously Dr. Quann worked for the National Dairy Council holding roles in Nutrition Research, Regulatory and Scientific Affairs, as well as Nutrition Marketing and Affairs. She led their NHANES research program and provided nutrition strategy and insights to the dairy and broader food and restaurant industries to help spur product innovation and health and wellness focused communications. She also worked for the U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine, the University of Connecticut Human Performance Laboratory, and the Hawley Armory Fitness and Wellness Center. She is a University of Connecticut alum where she studied nutrition and exercise sciences. She is actively involved in the American Society for Nutrition and Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, and recently served on the Board of Trustees for the American College of Sports Medicine.

### **Esther Jackson**

Tribal Cook  
Gila River Head Start

Esther has eight years as a Cook for Head Start, loves to bake from scratch, enjoys teaching kids food experiences and loves to cook traditional Native foods.

### **Geri Henchy**

Director of Nutrition Policy & Early Childhood Programs  
Food Research and Action Center

Geraldine Henchy is the Director of Nutrition Policy and Early Childhood Programs at the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC). FRAC is a research, policy, public education, and advocacy center working for more effective public and private policies to eradicate domestic hunger and improve the nutrition and health of low-income individuals and families. Ms. Henchy has enjoyed advocating for the Child and Adult Care Food Program for over two decades. She has been honored to

receive awards for her work on Child and Adult Care Food Program advocacy from the National CACFP Professionals Association, National Sponsors Forum, National Association of Family Child Care, and the California Roundtable. Most recently, the American Public Health Association's Food and Nutrition Section honored Ms. Henchy with the Sarah Samuels award recognizing outstanding contributions in public health nutrition. Ms. Henchy is a registered dietitian and has an MPH in nutrition from the University of California, Berkeley.

### **Hannah Duke**

Director of After School Programs  
YWCA of Adams County

Hannah Duke is the Director of the Zone after school program in Hastings, Nebraska. Before beginning her work in non-profit, she worked in restaurant management for 5 years. By applying her knowledge of customer and kitchen service to the CACFP program, she has increased snacks served by more than 50% and doubled the number of dinners served in the last two years.

### **Heather Ransons, M.Ed**

Health Educator  
YMCA Childcare Resource Service

Heather believes that a holistic approach to health is important to leading a balanced life. In her role as a health educator for the YMCA Child Resource Services, she is working to improve the health of children and adults in San Diego County. Heather began her career as a classroom teacher and found her passion in health education. With her Master's Degree in Education and certification as a nutrition consultant, she currently provides health education classes and nutrition resources to families and child care providers.

### **Helen Woo, RDN**

Dietitian  
Jefferson Parish Head Start

Helen is a second career Registered Dietitian Nutritionist after 15+ years of working in higher education. She earned an MS in Clinical Nutrition from New York University and completed her dietetic internship at Tulane University in New Orleans, LA. Helen has been with Jefferson Parish Head Start since November 2014. As their first full-time dietitian, Helen oversees food service operations, coordinates nutrition education, supervises dietetic interns, and teaches garden lessons. Previously she served as a consultant with the Jefferson Parish Public School System and has volunteered as a nutrition educator for Share Our Strength's Cooking Matters program in New Orleans.

### **Holly Prestegaard**

Nutritionist  
USDA Food and Nutrition Services

Holly Prestegaard is a nutritionist with the USDA, Food and Nutrition Service, based out of the Western Regional Office in San Francisco. In this role, she provides nutrition and community food systems support to CACFP stakeholders. Prior to working for USDA, she had a variety of positions including nutritionist for a local Head Start program, clinical dietitian for the Department of Veteran Affairs, and consultant for various state and local agencies providing nutrition training to early care and education professionals.

### **Jacki Redmond**

Field Representative  
Mid Michigan Child Care Food Program

Jacki has been working as a monitor with Mid Michigan for 17 years. Previous to working for the food program she was a group daycare provider for 10 years. Jacki has presented several trainings with groups of daycare providers through the years and encountered several situations as a monitor that she feels may be helpful to other monitors.

### **Jenna Cope, RD**

Nutrition, Health & Wellness Champion  
Gerber Products Company

Jenna Cope works in Nutrition, Health & Wellness at Gerber Products Company / Nestle Infant Nutrition. In this role, she works in Corporate Affairs with nutrition-related programs and partnerships, manages an early childhood community nutrition education program, and informs product development with research-supported nutrition insights for young children. Prior to working in Nutrition, Health and Wellness, Jenna worked in Regulatory and Public Policy. Jenna received her Bachelors of Science from Messiah College with a Minor in Health & Exercise Science, completed her Dietetic Internship at the College of Saint Elizabeth and is near-completion of her Masters of Public Health at Benedictine University. She is a Registered Dietitian and a member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and the American Public Health Association. She is the current President-Elect of the New Jersey Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics and Secretary for the Food & Nutrition Section of the American Public Health Association.

### **Jennifer Basey, MA**

Program Associate  
National CACFP Sponsor Association

After teaching elementary school for five years, Jennifer Basey began working for Region 13, Education Service Center as an Instructional Coach. At the center, she was responsible for the Instructional Coaching Network, monthly presentations offered to district employees, and for offering various continuing education courses to employees at various districts. From that work, Jennifer has learned a few "tricks of the trade" to increase engagement and interest during presentations.

### **Jennifer A. Hanson, PhD, RD**

Assistant Professor  
Kansas State University

Dr. Jennifer Hanson is a Registered Dietitian and an Assistant Professor at Kansas State University where she obtained her PhD in Human Nutrition. She has worked in a variety of clinical and food service settings including time at a childcare facility. She has functioned as the project lead for the Army's Child, Youth, and School Services (CYSS) menu initiative. Her interests include child nutrition, childhood obesity prevention, and food safety. Her research has been published in journals such as the Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior, Military Medicine, and Lipids, and her work has been presented at numerous professional conferences. In 2013, she received the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Simko Memorial Award for Excellence at a Poster Session.

### **Jennifer A. Weber, MPH**

Director, Healthy Way to Grow  
American Heart Association

Jennifer Weber joined the American Heart Association as the Director of Healthy Way to Grow in May 2013. In this role, Jennifer is responsible for the programmatic and operational management of Healthy Way to Grow, a joint program of AHA and Nemours that supports obesity prevention in early care and education. She also serves as the Kids' Market lead for AHA, leading development and implementation of the association-wide strategy for establishing a unified approach to improving kids' health and establishing life-long engagement. Jennifer previously worked at Nemours, one of the nation's leading pediatric health systems, and as the Manager of National Nutrition Policy for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Jennifer also served as a nutrition advisor for the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion in the Department of Health and Human Services where she contributed to the management and development of the 2005

edition of the federal Dietary Guidelines for Americans. She is also an Adjunct Professor at George Washington University. Jennifer earned a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Michigan, and a Bachelor's degree in dietetics from Iowa State University. She completed her dietetic internship at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

### **Jesus Mendoza, Jr.**

Regional Administrator  
Food and Nutrition Service, Western Region, USDA

Jesus Mendoza, Jr., became Regional Administrator with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service, Western Regional Office, in May 2014. In this position, Jesus oversees 15 nutrition assistance programs in Alaska, Arizona, California, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, the Pacific Territories of American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Indian Tribal Organizations in several western states. These programs include the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, the Special supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), Food Distribution Programs, and other food assistance and nutrition programs. Jesus' goal is to create a positive change in programs which serve vulnerable Americans by building partnerships with federal, state and local agencies to maintain the integrity, access and nutritional quality of these programs. Jesus began his career with FNS Western Regional Office in 2002 as a Program Specialist with the Special Nutrition Programs (SNP) and served as SNP Section Chief and Regional Director and Deputy Regional Administrator prior to his current position. Before joining the Food and Nutrition Service, Jesus served as Program Officer for International Planned Parenthood and worked for the World Wildlife Fund, Latin America and Caribbean Region offices. In addition, Jesus served in the Peace Corps in Ecuador and Morocco and the U.S. Army. Jesus earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Southwest Texas State University and Master's degree in International Development Project Management from Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts. Jesus is a native of Laredo, Texas, and currently lives in Berkeley, California.

### **Jill Cox, MS, RD**

Program Development Specialist  
Penn State Better Kid Care

Jill received her graduate degree from the University of Pittsburgh, School of Allied Health Professions and her undergraduate degree in Clinical Dietetics from Purdue University. She completed an internship in Dietetics at the Medical College of Virginia. As Program Development Specialist with the Penn State University Better Kid Care program, Jill authors professional development materials on topics related to nutrition, health and wellness for early care and education professionals. Her research experience has included chronic disease prevention in community-based settings related to nutrition education and physical activity promotion. She especially enjoys the many partnerships that have formed as she works with others to promote wellness in the earliest stages of life.

### **Jill Joyce, MS, RD**

Registered Dietitian and PhD Student in Human Nutrition  
Kansas State University

Jill Joyce is a Registered Dietitian and doctoral student in Human Nutrition at Kansas State University. She received her master's degree in Dietetics from the University of Pittsburgh. She worked on menu development for the Army's Child, Youth, and School Services (CYSS) initiative and created a production calculator to assist with food production management. Her interests include child nutrition, eating disorder nutrition therapy, sports nutrition, and public health nutrition. She received the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Outstanding Dietetic Student Award in 2009, the Kathleen Newell Graduate Scholarship in Nutrition in 2015, the Nutrition in Youth Scholarship in 2016 and the Bedford Endowed Graduate Teaching Assistantship in 2016.

### **Jo Ann Eudy, RN, BSN**

Child Nutrition/School Health Specialist  
Texas Educational Service Center Region 16

Jo Ann Eudy is a Child Nutrition/School Health Specialist for Region 16 Education Service Center (ESC) in Amarillo Texas focusing on CACFP and SFSP. Her service area covers the top 26 counties in the top of Texas covering a 26,000 square mile area. In September 2014 she became the CACFP/SFSP Specialist for Region 16 although she had partnered with the Child Nutrition since 2006 with the Wellness Policy/Implementation Plan. She has presented on a variety of health topics since 2003 to school staff, nurses, school administrators and community contacts providing continuing professional education hours. Ms. Eudy has partnered several times with a local community college and the Texas Department of State Health Services to present and coordinate continuing professional education for nurses. More recently with CACFP and SFSP, she provides technical assistance and present to CACFP and SFSP directors and staff. Jo Ann has a B.S. in Nursing from West Texas A & M University, in Canyon, TX and is a member of Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society and Mortor Board Honor Society.

### **Joe Torres**

Regional Civil Rights Director  
USDA Food and Nutrition Service, Western Region

For the past 13 years, Joe Torres has served as the Regional Civil Rights Director for Food and Nutrition Service (FNS-USDA) Western Regional Office which has jurisdiction over FNS funded food assistance programs in the Western United States and Pacific Ocean. Prior to FNS, Mr. Torres has served in civil rights positions with other federal civil rights agencies and served in administrative posts in academia.

### **Jose Ochoa Jr.**

Regional Partnership Manager  
Revolution Foods

Jose Ochoa Jr. joined Revolution Foods in 2014 as an Area Operations Manager and supported schools and staff in the Southern California Area. Recently promoted to Regional Partnership Manager, Jose now helps maintain relationships with a variety of school partners including one of our larger, multi-site supper partners. Jose grew up in East Los Angeles, graduated from Cal Poly Pomona and prior to joining Revolution Foods, was heavily involved in his community through the non-profit organization The City Terrace Coordinating Council. Jose helped organize community events, summer academic programing, and community outreach. Jose continues to bring that same passion for engaging various communities and working to bring healthy eating and healthy lifestyles to everyone.

### **Josh Bariuan, MPH**

Health Educator  
YMCA Childcare Resource Service

Josh Bariuan is a health educator with the YMCA Childcare Resource Service currently working with child care providers under the Wellness Champion Program. He received his BA in Social Science at the University of California, Irvine and holds a Master's degree in Public Health with an emphasis in Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences. Josh has over 10 years of experience working in child and early childhood health and behavior. His diversified experience in community and behavioral health provides a comprehensive approach to those seeking to improve their nutrition and physical activity environments of their child care site.

### **Joshua Smith, CMP, CCNP**

Program Coordinator  
Our Daily Bread of TN

Josh Smith is the program coordinator for Taking Root Tennessee as well as the Systems Manager for Our Daily Bread of TN. Josh has worked for nearly 5 years in the CACFP and recently helped spearhead a Farm2Preschool program in the state of TN that brings garden experiences to thousands of preschool-aged children in the state. This is Josh's second year presenting Taking Root Tennessee and Farm2School oppurtinities at the NCA conference.

## Julie Miller Jones, PhD, LN, CNS

Distinguished Scholar and Professor Emeritus  
Foods and Nutrition St. Catherine University

Julie Jones, a board certified and Licensed Nutritionist, received her BS degree from Iowa State University and her PhD in Home Economics/Food Science and Nutrition from the University of Minnesota. Currently, she is professor of nutrition in the Department of Family, Consumer and Nutritional Sciences at the St. Catherine University in St. Paul. She has twice been named St. Catherine's outstanding professor and was awarded the Myser Award by the alumnae as a professor "who made a difference in people's lives." She held the 3M Endowed Chair in Science from 2000 to 2003 and co-leads the Center for Women, Science and Technology. She has authored a book entitled Food Safety (Eagan Press, 1992) and edited a book Dietary Fibre: Bio-Active Carbohydrates for Food and Feed (Wageningen Academic Publishers, 2004). She is very interested in all aspects of nutrition science but is especially interested in whole grains and food-based solutions such as the DASH diet and 5-A-Day. She regularly writes and speaks about whole grains and dietary fiber, sugars, starch including resistant starch, the glycemic index, fat, vitamins and antioxidants; food safety issues such as microbial safety, irradiation, pesticides; and issues affecting women such as dieting and body image. As a North American editor for Food Safety and Security (an international newsletter published in Oxford, England), she writes a column on biotechnology, additives, contaminants, pesticides and other chemicals and food irradiation. She also is a nutrition columnist for Cereal Foods World, Lipid Technology, and Food Processing. She is a frequent speaker for many professional conferences and consumer organizations, locally, nationally and internationally such as the International Cereal Congress held in Vienna in July 2005 and a international meeting on the glycemic response in Brussels in 2005. She is part of the General Mills speaker's bureau and as part of that, speaks to health professionals around the country. She has co-organized two conferences on whole grains with the most recent one being the Whole Grains Summit held in May 2005. She is actively involved in trying to educate the consumer against frauds and myths in nutrition and food safety. To that end, she has appeared on radio and TV shows in many cities in the United States has answered hundreds of consumer letters in the FIXIT column of the Minneapolis Star Tribune. She has been active in many professional organizations. For the national American Association of Cereal Chemists (AACC) International, she is past president and chair of the board of the national organization and has served in many capacities both nationally and locally. Currently, she heads the Whole Grains Task Force and the Glycemic Carbohydrate Definition Committee. She has been president of the Twin Cities Home Economics Association, Minnesota Council Against Health Fraud, Minnesota Nutrition Council and on the board of the Minnesota Dietetics Association. For the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT), she has been chair and secretary of the Nutrition Division. She has served as chair of the Minnesota section of IFT and has held many other roles locally and nationally. She is also a member of the American Dietetics Association is a frequent speaker and organizer of symposia for their annual meetings. She also belongs to the International Association of Culinary Professionals and Les Dames d'Escoffier. She is a scientific advisor for the Joint Institute of Food Safety and Nutrition for the University of Maryland and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. She is a scientific advisor to the carbohydrate committee of the International Life Sciences Institute. She is on the scientific advisory panel for the Grains Food Foundation and Chartwell. She has been the consultant for many companies. She teaches classes in nutritional biochemistry, advanced nutrition, basic food science, experimental foods, sensory evaluation, issues in the American and world food supply and intercultural food patterns. Her hobbies include skiing, reading, traveling, hiking, music of many genres, cooking and gourmet foods and wines. She is passionately interested in food and is a James Beard Society Judge of restaurants and cookbooks. She is a member of Roseville Lutheran Church and volunteers with organizations advocating for the handicapped.

## Justin Adelman

Program Specialist  
California Department of Education, Nutrition Services

Justin Adelman is a program specialist with the California Department of Education, Nutrition Services Division. He has extensive knowledge of Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) procurement subjects, has completed multiple procurement training sessions conducted by the Institute of Child Nutrition, and has facilitated numerous presentations and trainings on procurement-related topics and issues relevant to the CACFP.

### **K. Elise Lindstrom, MA, RDN**

Cardiovascular Nutritionist – Sodium Reduction in Communities Program  
Marion County Public Health Department, Chronic Disease Program

K. Elise Lindstrom, MA, RDN, is the Cardiovascular Nutritionist for the Sodium Reduction in Communities Program at the Marion County Public Health Department housed within the Chronic Disease Department to implement the project at Head Start. Elise has almost 10 years' experience planning and conducting nutrition programs, specializing in pediatric overweight and obese populations. She earned a Bachelor's Degree from Purdue University School of Health and Human Sciences with a dual major in Dietetics and Nutrition, Fitness and Health, and holds a Master's Degree in Advance Nutrition from Ball State University. Elise is a proficient public speaker, comfortable engaging with large audiences. Most recently, she has presented the Head Start and Sodium Reduction in Communities work nationally at the Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior annual conference and webinars for the National Sodium Reduction Initiative (NSRI). She has spoken at many state wide conferences, including the Indiana Head Start Association Fall Conference, the Indiana Public Health Association Conference, and Indiana School Health Network Conference.

### **Kara Panowitz**

Out of School Time Manager  
No Kid Hungry MD/Share Our Strength

Kara Panowitz is the Out of School Time Manager for No Kid Hungry MD at Share Our Strength. She focuses on increasing access to and participation in the USDA Summer Meals Program and the At-Risk Afterschool Meals program. She received her Master's in Social Work at University and Maryland, focusing on food security. She has been a social studies teacher and a Peace Corps Volunteer in Madagascar.

### **Karen Harmon, RD, CD**

Nutrition and Wellness Dietitian  
Family Development Services, A Head Start Organization

Karen Harmon, RD, CD, is the Nutrition and Wellness Dietitian and CACFP Specialist for Family Development Services, A Head Start Organization. In this role she is responsible for the coordination of all nutrition services provided to enrolled Head Start and Early Head Start children and their families in Marion and Hamilton County. Karen has spent 23 years working in the field of Community Nutrition, the last 15 years with Family Development Services. Karen holds a bachelor of Science degree in Applied Health Science; Major in Dietetics from Indiana University School of Public Health-Bloomington. Karen has extensive public speaking experience providing ongoing CACFP and nutrition education training to over 300 Head Start staff members annually. Most recently, Karen has presented at multiple state wide conferences including the Indiana Head Start Association Fall Conference, the Indiana Public Health Association Conference, and Indiana School Health Network Conference.

### **Karen Strauch**

Field Representative  
Mid Michigan Child Care Food Program

Working as a monitor for 16 years, I have done several trainings over the years for groups of daycare providers. I also have had several years of experience with different situations that could be helpful for monitors.

### **Karla Dumas, RD**

Registered Dietitian, Food Policy  
The Humane Society of the United States

Karla Dumas is a registered and licensed dietitian nutritionist with The Humane Society of the United States. With over ten years of experience in the field of child nutrition and school food service management, she has partnered with foodservice

programs throughout the country, like Miami-Dade Public Schools and Hillsborough County Public Schools to implement plant-strong initiatives. By developing resources like menu cycles and kid-tested, school-approved meatless recipes that meet federal guidelines along with offering culinary workshops for school food service professionals, she continues to provide school districts and other institutions with more plant-based meal options. Dumas received her plant-based culinary certification through Rouxbe cooking school. She currently serves as the secretary for the Vegetarian Nutrition Dietetic Practice Group with the Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics. Karla's work in nutrition has been featured in numerous media outlets, such as *Tampa Tribune*, *Today's Dietitian*, and the *Miami Herald*.

### **Kate Abernathy, MS, RD, LDN**

Director of Nutrition Education  
Providers Choice, Inc

Kate Abernathy is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist with Providers Choice. In her role, she supports the mission of PCI by insuring the health and well-being of children in childcare through healthy eating and wellness. Kate is passionate about nutrition and has experience developing and presenting nutrition education for childcare providers, children, parents and healthcare providers. She is responsible for the development of PCI's yearly nutrition education and required CACFP training through the state of Minnesota which includes over 160 workshops that reach over 4,000 providers. Kate received her Bachelor of Arts degree in dietetics from the College of Saint Benedict and her Master of Science degree from Eastern Michigan University.

### **Kati Wagner, CMP**

Wildwood CACFP  
President

Wildwood CACFP in Centennial, CO hired Kati as the President in 2009. As of July 2013, Wildwood began sponsoring centers as well. Kati's business background allows her to see unique opportunities for providers. Her expertise in handling the budget, dealing with legislation, and management has allowed her to be successful in the CACFP.

### **Katina Kefalas, MS**

Program Specialist  
Community Nutrition Programs, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA

Katina Kefalas is a Program Specialist at the USDA Food and Nutrition Service Northeast Regional Office where she works on the Child and Adult Care Food Program and the Summer Food Service Program. She holds a M.S. in Food Policy and Applied Nutrition from Tufts University and a B.S. in Health Science from San Francisco State University. Her main interests include increasing access to fresh, nutritious foods and providing nutrition education to participants of the CACFP and SFSP. Prior to her work at the USDA, Katina served as a Program Reviewer for CACFP, SFSP and NSLP at the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

### **Keith Ayoob, PhD**

Associate Clinical Professor  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Keith-Thomas Ayoob is an Associate Clinical Professor at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City where he has maintained a clinical practice for over 30 years, specializing in obesity, child nutrition, and family dynamics. Much of his work also focuses on motivational counseling. Dr. Ayoob helped formulate a highly regarded global nutrition policy for the Walt Disney Corporation in 2006 and updated those landmark guidelines in 2012. These guidelines were widely acclaimed and were endorsed by the White House and First Lady Michelle Obama. Some of the results of these positive policy changes were just published in the *Journal of the Association for Consumer Research* in January 2016. Dr. Ayoob sits on a number of advisory boards, including the Academic Advisory Board of the Children's Advertising Review Unit of the National Advertising Review Council. In addition, Dr. Ayoob chairs the Scientific Advisory Board for NuVal, a nutrition profiling system

and consumer education tool, which he also helped develop, and which is now in over 2000 supermarkets across the US. Dr. Ayoob currently writes for The Doctor's Tablet, an online site with articles sent to tens of thousands of physicians and health professionals and that was awarded "Best Non-Profit Blog" of 2014. He has also written for MedPage Today, an online medical news service for physicians and health professionals and has written many invited Op-Ed pieces for electronic and print media. Dr. Ayoob is a strong advocate against fad dieting and in 2004 he testified before Congress against the marketing of diet pills to children. He co-authored the American Dietetic Association's 2002 position paper on food and nutrition myths and misinformation. Dr. Ayoob received his doctorate degree from Columbia University's Teachers College, his Master's from the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, and he did his undergraduate work at the University of California at Davis.

### **Kelly Blondin, MS**

WIC and CACFP Program Specialist  
USDA Food and Nutrition Service, Western Region

Kelly is a WIC and CACFP Program Specialist at USDA FNS' Western Regional Office. Before joining FNS in 2017, she contributed to several research projects aimed at informing evidence-based childhood obesity prevention interventions, including programs and policies targeting childcare and afterschool settings. Most recently, at the UC Nutrition Policy Institute, she conducted research and evaluation for the California SNAP-Ed program. She previously worked on cost-effectiveness analyses, including of CACFP and WIC, at the Harvard Prevention Research Center. Kelly spent her early career coordinating and implementing community-based nutrition programs for underserved populations with First 5 California AmeriCorps and Share Our Strength. She also managed farmers' markets in the SF Bay Area. Kelly holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Harvard College and a master's degree in Social and Behavioral Sciences with a concentration in Obesity Epidemiology and Prevention from the Harvard School of Public Health.

### **Kenya Pennington**

Program Analyst  
USDA Food and Nutrition Service

Kenya Pennington is a Program Analyst within the Community Meals Branch at the National Office of USDA's Food and Nutrition Service, where she works primarily on the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Previously Kenya worked as a Pathways Intern for four years at FNS. She spent several summers in the Accounting, Grants and Fiscal Policy, and Audit Divisions of Financial Management. She has a Masters of Arts in Teaching (MAT) in Elementary Education and a B.S. in Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies from James Madison University. In her spare time, Kenya enjoys hiking and eating vegan pizza.

### **Kim Woodworth MA**

Health Educator/Field Services  
YMCA Childcare Resource Service

Kim has been a Health Educator with the YMCA Child Care Resource Service since the inception of the Wellness Champion Program. She has played a key role in each of the five grants received for this ongoing project. Previously, Kim ran a successful family child care business and holds a Master's Degree in Human Behavior and a Certification in Parent Coaching. Her experience and education have proven invaluable in the creation and implementation of the Wellness Champion Program. Kim believes that with commitment and collaboration greatness is possible and she is excited to share her experience with other, likeminded, professionals.

### **Kelly Waldron**

Chef & Program Specialist  
Texas Education Center Region 13

Kelly Waldron is the Chef and Program Specialist with Education Service Center Region 13 in Austin, TX. She holds a culinary Degree from the Culinary Institute of American in Hyde Park, NY and a Bachelor's Degree from Indiana University, Bloomington. Her current role with the ESC is to provide culinary skills, recipe and menu development training to schools, districts, and CACFP entities.

### **Kristen Bussenger**

Director  
Revolution Foods

Kristen Bussenger joined Revolution Foods in 2014, passionate for the mission of building lifelong healthy eaters by making kid-inspired, chef-crafted food accessible to all. Revolution Foods currently serves over 200,000 meals a week throughout the country. Kristen's primary role focuses on growing the number of school partners, as well as working with key community stakeholders to support efforts around child nutrition. She has been involved in developing and growing national partnerships with supper and summer sponsors throughout the country, and had the privilege of participating and presenting at the National CACFP Conference for a few years. Prior to joining Revolution Foods, Kristen worked as a Director of Development for the University of Denver's Daniels College of Business, raising funds for the ASCEND Campaign to support the University's students and programs. Kristen recently received her Certificate in Public Health from the Colorado School of Public Health, and is passionate about providing resources for kids to healthy eating and active living. Kristen currently resides in Florida with her husband and can be found exploring the outdoors when not at work!

### **Kristina Bedikian, CCNP**

Nutrition Coordinator  
Acelero Learning

Kristina Bedikian is the Nutrition Coordinator at Acelero Learning Head Start in Clark County for 11 centers and 1450 children. She has been with the company for the past 6 years. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Nutrition and Food Science from Madonna University. She works with children that have food allergies, children that are overweight/obese as well as underweight and children with nutrition concerns. Currently this year she has managed over 200 children with food allergies-from the simplest to the most severe. In addition to helping children and families, she is also in charge of Health and Wellness for the 300 staff at Acelero Head Start. When it comes to nutrition and children, she is strongly passionate about them both. She enjoys helping children and families battle obesity and educate them on nutrition and its importance at a very young age. She has been a presenter at the National Conference for the past two years along side Rhonda Kobylecky, Food Service Director for Acelero Learning Head Start. Together they make a great team to ensure the children and families receive the proper nutrition

### **Lacy Stephens, MS, RDN**

Farm to Early Care and Education Associate  
National Farm to School Network

Lacy Stephens, MS, RDN, brings her passion for supporting healthy kids, thriving communities, and sustainable food systems to her work as the Farm to Early Care and Education Associate with the National Farm to School Network (NFSN). In her work at NFSN, Lacy works to promote the development and expansion of the farm to early care and education movement through information sharing, network building, and advocacy. Lacy coordinates the NFSN Farm to Early Care and Education Working Group, serves on the CACFP National Advisory Council and CACFP TA Workgroup and holds a chair position with the Hunger and Environmental Nutrition Dietetics Practice Group. Based in Bozeman, Montana, Lacy is a registered dietitian with a Master's Degree in Sustainable Food Systems from Montana State University.

### **Laura Carroll, MS, MPH**

Nutritionist  
USDA Food and Nutrition Service

Laura Carroll is a Nutritionist at USDA's Food and Nutrition Services Child Nutrition Programs. Laura develops and evaluates nutrition policy for the Child and Adult Care Food Program and Summer Meal Program. She entered the Federal government as a Presidential Management Fellow at the Food and Drug Administration and joined USDA in 2014. Prior to her Fellowship, Laura served as a Project Coordinator at ChildObesity180 and the City of Somerville's Health Department. She received her Bachelor of Arts from St. Mary's College of Maryland in Sociology and a Master's of Science in Nutrition and a Masters of Public Health from Tufts University.

### **Laura Thomas, MED, RD, LD, FAND**

Registered Dietitian  
Institute of Child Nutrition

Laura Thomas is a registered dietitian with a passion for sharing great tasting food and healthful lifestyle choices. She has created nutrition education programs for young children, teens, and adults. Her work has been recognized by the American and Idaho Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and the Dannon Institute. She was honored by the Society for Nutrition Education & Behavior early in her career, and in 2014, was named a Fellow of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. She is the current newsletter editor of the School Nutrition Services dietetics practice group. Laura is a graduate of the University of Idaho dietetics program and earned her Masters of Education degree with an emphasis on adult education from the University of Idaho. Recently she authored resources for USDA on menu planning and the current school meal program standards as well as a guide on professional standards. Laura works as a consultant for Idaho's child nutrition programs and for the Institute of Child Nutrition as a curriculum developer and trainer. She has taught numerous courses for CACFP audiences, and she wrote both the face-to-face and online training, Nutrition 101: A Taste of Food and Fitness, for the Institute. Laura was a Serving It Safe instructor for several years, and now teaches Food Safety in Schools.

### **Lauren A. Marciszyn, RD, LDN**

Technical Advisor, Early Childhood & Afterschool Programs  
YMCA of the USA

Lauren Marciszyn, RD, LDN, currently serves as the Y-USA Technical Advisor to support the successful implementation of the Healthy Eating and Physical Activity (HEPA) Standards. Prior to joining Y-USA in 2013, Lauren served as Director of Youth and Community Wellness for the Hockomock Area YMCA since 2007. In this role Lauren led the advancing of the Healthy Futures Initiative, the Ys strategic commitment to prevent and reduce youth obesity. She also served as the Town of Franklin's Program Coordinator for Mass in Motion, a statewide chronic disease prevention initiative for Massachusetts residents. Prior to joining the YMCA, Lauren advanced community nutrition through FoodPlay Productions, an Emmy Award-winning nutrition media company that tours schools and events across the country. She earned a Bachelor's of Science degree in Nutrition from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and is a registered and licensed dietitian.

### **Lauren Pitts, RD**

Registered Dietitian, Food Policy Coordinator  
The Humane Society of the United States

Lauren Pitts is the food policy coordinator and registered dietitian for The Humane Society of the United States. She has successfully worked with several schools, hospitals, universities, and other institutions to implement healthier, more sustainable plant based meals. In these mutually-beneficial partnerships, Lauren introduces these institutions to plant-based foods through recipe planning, chef trainings, and marketing support. Prior to working with HSUS, Lauren focused on individual nutrition counseling and corporate wellness. Lauren is the Congressional Ambassador Coordinator for the Public Policy Council of the California Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and the Webinar Chair for the Vegetarian Nutrition Dietetics Practice Group. Lauren has been featured in several media outlets including KMIR in Palm Springs, the California Child Nutrition Professional Journal, All Animals magazine, and the Food Heals Podcast. Professional Speaking Engagements: • "Plant Strong Culinary Workshop", San Ysidro School District, January 2016 • "Plant Strong Culinary Workshop", Campbell Union High School District, August 2016 • "Plant Strong Culinary Workshop", Novato Unified School District, August 2016 • "Meeting the Growing Demand for Meatless Meals", Food Forward, UC-Berkeley, March 2016 • "Meeting the Growing Demand for Meatless Meals", Food Forward, Loma Linda University, March 2016 • "Meeting the

Growing Demand for Meatless Meals”, Food Forward Culinary Experience, San Diego State University, January 2016 • “Meeting the Growing Demand for Meatless Meals”, Food Forward Culinary Experience, Oregon State University, August 2016 • “Meeting the Growing Demand for Meatless Meals”, Food Forward Culinary Experience, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, August 2016 • “Farms vs. Factories”, University of San Diego, October 2015 • “Going Garbanzo”, University of Southern California, February, 2016 • “Powering Up with Plant Strong Meals”, Tucson Medical Cardiovascular Symposium, February 2016 • “Powering Up with Plant Strong Meals”, Cal Poly, Pomona, February 2016 • “Powering Up with Plant Strong Meals”, Office of Sustainability and the Environment, Santa Monica, March 2016 • “Powering Up with Plant Strong Meals”, Arizona State University, April 2016

### **Laurie Pennings, MS, RD**

Nutrition Education Specialist  
California Department of Education

Laurie Pennings is a Nutrition Education Specialist in the Nutrition Services Division at the California Department of Education with over 25 years of experience working in community nutrition programs. She is lead for California’s farm to school and farm to preschool efforts and provides training on local procurement. She also provides training on the federal procurement standards and code of conduct. Prior to her current position, Ms. Pennings was the manager of the Child and Adult Care Food Program for six years and manager of the Breastfeeding Promotion Unit at the California WIC Branch for ten years. She has a master’s degree in Nutritional Science and is a registered dietitian.

### **Rev. Dr. Lawrence Karow, CMP, CCNP**

CEO  
UMCFood Ministry

Larry is founder and CEO of UMCFood Ministry, and Ministry of the KY Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. UMCFood has grown to over 80 paid employees, over 150 sites, and will serve over 1 million meals in 2016. UMCFood operates the Summer Food Service program, CACFP At-Risk as well as Unaffiliated Childcare Centers in both Ohio and Kentucky.

### **Leigh Ann Edwards Hall, MPH, RDN**

National Director of Nutrition and Food Skills Education  
Share Our Strength

Leigh Ann Edwards, MPH, RDN, is the National Director for Share Our Strength’s Nutrition Education work, including Cooking Matters. Part of the national No Kid Hungry campaign, Cooking Matters empowers low-income families with the skills to shop smart and cook healthy meals. The program has served more than 400,000 participants over 20+ years through hands-on education in the kitchen and at the grocery store. Leigh Ann’s oversees operations, training and technical assistance provided to Cooking Matters more than 300 partners around the country. She also directs projects to expand Cooking Matters through technology channels, including the development of a Cooking Matters app expected in 2017. Leigh Ann was appointed to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics’ Public Health Task Force, and served as a volunteer reviewer for the Academy’s expiring position paper Food Insecurity in the US. She is an invited member of the committee to develop Standards of Practice and Standards of Professional Practice for Registered Dietitians in Public Health Nutrition. Ms. Edwards received the University of North Carolina’s Gillings School of Public Health Department of Nutrition’s Outstanding Alumnus for 2008 – 2009. She was also selected as the 2010 Emerging Leader for the North Carolina Dietetic Association. Before joining Share Our Strength, Leigh Ann held positions with the public affairs firm N Chapman Associates, Inc. and the business consulting firm Accenture LLP. Leigh Ann, a registered dietitian, holds a Master’s in Public Health from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and a Bachelor of Arts in Interpersonal Communications from North Carolina State University. She lives in Charlotte, N.C.

### **Linda Simmons, MSHP, RD, LD**

Registered Dietician  
Texas Department of Agriculture

Linda is a registered and licensed dietitian and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in administrative and therapeutic nutrition and a Masters of Science in Health Professions both from Texas State University. She currently holds the position of Nutrition Specialist for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) with the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). Linda has over 25 years of experience with the Child Nutrition Programs in Texas and has speaking experience at the national, state and local level during these 25 years.

### **Lisa Mack**

Executive Director  
National CACFP Sponsors Association

Lisa Mack is an association executive responsible for working with the board of directors to develop and implement the long-term operating plan to ensure the growth and success of the National CACFP Sponsors Association. Central to that plan is managing member relationships, resource and product development, training and conference programming, and partnership development. Before joining NCA, Lisa had served as the Director of Corporate Communications for a food service software corporation where she was responsible for client communications and newsletters, user group conferences, and partnerships with industry organizations such as Second Harvest, Research Chefs Association, Women's Foodservice Forum and the Society for the Advancement of Food Service Research.

### **Lita Moore**

Executive Director  
North County Community Services Early Education Program

NCCS was one of the local agencies that worked with Occidental College to pilot the "Farm to Preschool" program. With five locations in North San Diego County NCCS continues to include gardening and nutrition education in the classrooms and with families of the program. NCCS currently operates a three-quarter acre on one of the child development sites that is used to grow produce for the preschool meals. One of the goals of NCCS is to provide healthy nutritious meals daily, while providing an early start to healthy eating for children in our care. Lita has worked in the field of Early Education for over 30 years and holds a Masters Degree in Early Education.

### **Londa Tindle**

Director  
Providers Premier Choice of SEK, Inc.

Londa Tindle is currently the Director of Providers Premier Choice of SEK, Inc., a Child and Adult Food Program serving Southeast Kansas and has been involved with food program and daycare management for the last 20 years. Londa graduated from Emporia State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and Finance. She considers herself to be a serial Entrepreneur, and enjoys speaking to high school students about entrepreneurial opportunities.

### **Lori Johnson**

Implementation Specialist  
Minute Menu Systems

Lori Johnson is the Implementation Specialist for Minute Menu Systems, LLC. Minute Menu Systems offers comprehensive management systems for child care agencies and providers operating under the auspices of the federal Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). In addition to her current 6 year tenure with Minute Menu, Lori has thirteen years of experience with a large non-profit CACFP sponsorship, and over 20 additional years in early childhood care and education. Lori has presented workshops for NCA, CCFP Roundtable, NAFCC and Minute Menu Boot Camp Conferences.

## Lori Muzquiz, MA

Child Nutrition Specialist, CACFP & SFSP  
Education Service Center

Lori Muzquiz, M.Ed. Child Nutrition Specialist Texas Education Service Center Lori is a Child Nutrition Specialist for the Texas Education Service Center in Abilene where she develops and teaches CACFP workshops and offers technical assistance to CACFP Centers and Day Care Home Sponsors. Previously, she was a nutritionist and clinic supervisor for WIC and a Nutrition Coordinator for a CACFP Sponsor. Lori has a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition/Dietetics and a Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction.

## Louvina Johnson

Nutrition Coordinator  
Gila River Headstart

Louvina has been in child nutrition for 19 years, 17 of those years in NSLP, 5 years in Correctional Food Service and 5 years in Elderly Food Service. Her motto is Healthy food should taste good, making one small change at a time and she loves to bake and try new ideas.

Manuel is a graduate of Princeton University and currently works as a District Manager for the City of San Diego. He has 21 years of experience in the Park and Recreation industry, including 18 years in aquatics. Manuel oversees park maintenance operations and programming at 8 Recreation Centers, 30 parks, a skate park, tennis courts and a landfill. He supervises 100 staff, including 36 full-time employees. Manuel manages 265.16 acres of developed parkland, 10 acres of joint use fields and 90.1 acres of undeveloped open space. He operates a \$2,468,286.07 personnel budget and a \$370,242 non-personnel budget, excluding fleet and utilities.

## Manuel Gonzalez

District Manager  
City of San Diego

Manuel was previously the Aquatics Coordinator for the City of Chula Vista for more than 6 years where he supervised two municipal swimming pools. He was the President of the San Diego County Aquatics Council for six terms. He has served as the legislative representative and is the current President of the California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS), District 12. Manuel is also the President-Elect of the statewide Administrator's Section of CPRS. The National Drowning Prevention Alliance (NDPA) recognized his work with the Aquatic Council with a Community Lifesaver Award in 2010. In 2012, Aquatics International recognized Manuel as a member of the Power 25, which identifies the most influential leaders in the aquatics industry. Manuel has been active as a drowning prevention advocate with the National Drowning Prevention Alliance. In 2012, he was co-host of the NDPA Symposium in San Diego. He has spoken at conferences for National Recreation and Parks Association, CPRS, NDPA and the Association of Aquatic Professionals. While in Chula Vista, Manuel developed a comprehensive drowning prevention program. The program was recognized with a *Creating Community* award from CPRS in 2012. He has secured nearly \$500,000 in grants to further aquatic instruction and physical education programs.

Manuel currently oversees the Summer Lunch program in partnership with two School Districts at 33 Recreation Centers. The Department served more than 100,000 meals last year, and has served more than 1,000,000 meals since the program started in 2003. The program was recognized with a *Creating Community* award from CPRS in 2015. He also oversees the Department-wide youth sports program, which last year had 500 teams and 5,516 participants in basketball, baseball, flag football, soccer, softball and volleyball.

While at Princeton, Manuel studied History and received a certificate in American Studies. He was a writer for *Business Today* and a Senior Writer for the *Daily Princetonian*. He served on the Student Advisory Council for the American Studies Department, providing input for the selection of curriculum and faculty.

## Marcia Wileczek

Director of Childcare Relationships  
Novick Brothers Corporation

Marcia has worked in childcare for over 19 years. The first 2 years she was a classroom teacher, followed by 17 years as a center director for a program with 140 children enrolled. Marcia also served as the food program director for her entire district which consisted of 12 schools. During this timeframe Marcia created new seasonal menus, targeted healthier, cost effective menu items and recipes for her entire district. Marcia lives in West Chester Pennsylvania and is the mother of 3 teenage boys.

## Mark Speight

Senior Program Specialist  
USDA Food and Nutrition Service

Mark Speight is currently a Senior Program Specialist with the USDA Food and Nutrition Service and is based in the Southwest Regional Office in Dallas, TX. Prior to working for the USDA he was the Audit Coordinator/Compliance Administrator for Arkansas Department of Human Services in the Division of Childcare and Early Childhood Education. After graduating from the University of Arkansas with a degree in Accounting Mark worked as an Internal Auditor with Wal-Mart before becoming the Chief Financial Officer for a small business. His greatest successes are his two children, both of whom attend Sewanee University in Tennessee.

## Mary Bartz

Principal  
Bartz Consulting Group

Mary Bartz is a food and nutrition consultant specializing in television, radio and stage presentations. She has a broad range of experience in product and recipe development, recipe contest coordination, food styling, as well as judging open class and 4-H canning and baking competitions at county fairs and the Minnesota State Fair. She earned a B.S. degree in Food Science and Nutrition from the University of Minnesota and worked in the Betty Crocker Kitchens at General Mills and in public relations for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

## Mary Beth Salomone Testa

Policy Consultant  
National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)

Mary Beth Salomone Testa brings more than 15 years of experience in advocacy and policy development. Mary Beth's expertise is in connecting policy and practice, with depth of knowledge in child care regulations and legislation. Mary Beth has led advocacy campaigns across a variety of states and at the federal level, representing and building coalitions with child care providers, child care resource and referral agencies, home visiting programs, and the Children's Defense Fund. As a consultant, Mary Beth offers policy analysis, capacity building, and mobilization for federal and state policy and legislative affairs. Clients include local, state and national organizations. For the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC), Mary Beth works with providers, state and local associations, partners and policy-makers to advance NAFCC's mission to promote the power of family child care. There is widespread agreement that early learning is one of the best investments that the country can make in its current and future workforce. The bipartisan Child Care and Development Block Grant Reauthorization of 2014 made significant changes and calls for building the supply of high-quality child care, and CACFP is another crucial component of the child care infrastructure. For many children, the child care program they attend is their primary source of food – and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a lifeline for them. CACFP is a federal policy priority for NAFCC and we are working with colleagues to make a good program even better. This includes legislative advocacy on Capitol Hill, and supporting providers in the successful implementation of the new CACFP Meal Pattern. Mary Beth is a regular presenter at national and statewide conferences and has been published in *Exchange* magazine. Mary Beth graduated from American University in Washington, DC and lives in Falls Church, Virginia.

### **Melissa Cannon, RD**

Nutrition Policy Advocate  
California Food Policy Advocates

Melissa works at the California Food Policy Advocates to promote access to nutritious, affordable foods in the child care environment and in schools. Her diverse career in nutrition yields a valuable perspective on the needs of low-income communities. Prior to joining CFPA in 2015, Melissa worked at the Native American Health Center as a Registered Dietitian where she delivered nutrition services to the urban Native community and other underserved populations in the Bay Area. Previously, Melissa worked in California's central valley for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); supported health equity projects at Prevention Institute; consulted on anti-hunger efforts in New York; and provided administrative support for the Education and Nutrition Policy Unit at the California Department of Education.

### **Melissa Moore, CMP**

Program Director for Food Access  
Family League

Melissa Moore is the Program Director for Food Access at The Family League of Baltimore. She is a Board Member for the National CACFP Sponsors Association and the Chair of the Baltimore Partnership to End Childhood Hunger. Melissa has been working with the Child and Adult Care Food Program and Summer Food Service Program for over five years. In her role she oversees 300 CACFP and SFSP vended at-risk sites. Combined these sites serve over two million meals each year.

### **Melissa Tramontana**

CACFP/SFSP Team Lead  
Community Nutrition Programs, USDA Mountain Plains Regional Office

Melissa Tramontana is the Team Lead for the CACFP/SFSP Team in the USDA Food and Nutrition Service, Mountain Plains Regional Office in Denver. She joined FNS in 2007 after obtaining her degree in Nutritional Sciences at Rutgers University. In her current position, Melissa provides oversight of program administration as well as technical assistance to team members and state agencies regarding the Child and Adult Care Food Program and the Summer Food Service Program.

### **Michael Spevacek**

Application Developer  
The AccuTrak Group LLC

Mr. Spevacek is a Microsoft Certified Professional and has extensive experience developing solutions for customers in both the public and private sectors.

### **Mimi Wu, MS, RD**

Nutritionist  
USDA Food and Nutrition Service, Child Nutrition Programs

Mimi Wu, MS, RD is a Nutritionist with the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service's Child Nutrition Programs, where she develops and promotes nutrition education and technical assistance materials that support those participating in Child Nutrition Programs, with an emphasis on projects that support CACFP. Prior to this role, she served as a Public Health Nutritionist for Eat Well Play Hard in Child Care Centers, a SNAP-Ed program implemented in child care centers participating in CACFP in New York City. Mimi received her Bachelor of Science from Emory University in Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology and a Master of Science in Nutrition and Public Health from Teachers College Columbia University.

### **Monica Miles, CPA, CFE**

President  
MH Miles Company, CPA, PC

Ms. Miles is the managing partner of MH Miles Company and has more than twenty years of experience in the fields of auditing, consulting, and contract/grant compliance. Over the past 17 years, she has managed and/or participated in hundreds of CACFP and SFSP reviews and investigations in multiple states including Georgia, Delaware and North Carolina. Additionally, she regularly serves as a presenter at state agency, sub recipient, and trade association annual trainings/conferences. Ms. Miles has testified as a State appointed expert witness in several State Administrative Hearings of CACFP and SFSP institutions and has significant expertise in 2 CFR 200 and FAR 31 cost principles, accounting system analysis, policy and procedure development, and compliance auditing. Ms. Miles received her academic degrees from Cornell University and Adelphi University in New York, is a certified public accountant, and a certified fraud examiner. Ms. Miles is on the board of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington- Prince Georges County, was appointed to the newly created Audit Oversight Committee for DeKalb County Georgia, and participates with her daughter in Meals On Wheels. Ms. Miles also enjoys shooting skeet and trap.

### **Nancy Christensen, PhD**

Trainer

Institute of Child Nutrition

Dr. Nancy Christensen received her undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa. She holds a Master's in Education from the University of Southern Maine and a PhD from Iowa State University. Nancy is a member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and the School Nutrition Association. She is a ServeSafe instructor and proctor and a School Nutrition Specialist. Dr. Christensen's career also includes health care food service, and she is a former state agency consultant. Her interests include bread-making, gardening, quilting, and dogs. She is a licensed judge for the American Kennel Club. Nancy is a consultant trainer for the Institute of Child Nutrition.

### **Nora Geary, MPH, MSW**

ORISE Fellow

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Nora Geary is an ORISE Fellow on the Early Care and Education Team in the Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Since 2014, she has focused on providing one-on-one technical assistance to states on obesity prevention in early care and education settings. Nora has also done extensive work understanding state-level Quality Rating and Improvement Systems. In her role, she leads the CDC's monthly ECE networking calls and was the CDC liaison to Let's Move! Child Care. Nora received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Kenyon College and obtained both a Master of Public Health and Master of Social Work from Washington University in St. Louis.

### **Paola Paez, PhD**

Research Associate Professor

The Center of Excellence for Food Safety Research in Child Nutrition Programs

Dr. Paola Paez works at the Center of Excellence for Food Safety Research in Child Nutrition Programs at Kansas State University. Previously she was an associate professor in the School of Human Nutrition, College of Medicine at the University of Costa Rica. Dr. Paez received her doctorate from Iowa State University in foodservice and lodging management. Her research focuses on training and motivating foodservice employees to follow safe food handling practices and food safety in child nutrition programs. She has published in the Journal of Food Protection, Food Protection Trends, the Journal of Child Nutrition and Management, the International Journal of Contemporary Hospitality Management and other academic journals. She is a member of the School Nutrition Association, the Foodservice Management Education Council, the International Association of Food Protection, and the National Environmental Health Association.

### **Patrice Chamberlain, MPH**

Director  
California Summer Meal Coalition

Patrice Chamberlain is the director of the California Summer Meal Coalition, a program of the Institute for Local Government. The Coalition is a statewide, cross-discipline collaborative working to combat childhood hunger and support the wellbeing of children when school is out by increasing access to USDA child nutrition programs. She oversees the Coalition's strategic direction and provides support to local and state leaders in building effective out-of-school-time partnerships in low-income communities.

Ms. Chamberlain serves on national and statewide advisory boards focused on child nutrition and physical activity and holds a master's degree in public health from San Francisco State University.

### **Pat Siergiey, CMP, CCNP**

Program Coordinator  
Capstone Community Action

Pat has been with Capstone Community Action in Barre, Vermont for more than 18 years after a number of years as a home child care provider. Capstone is the largest sponsor of CACFP in Vermont and consists of many programs under one roof which include the Community Economic Development, Community Kitchen Academy, food shelf, fuel assistance, Head Start, housing, tax program, weatherization and many more which makes it a one stop shopping for services. Check out our website [Capstonevt.org](http://Capstonevt.org). Pat has a degree in legal studies and non-profit administration and in 2010 became a University of Vermont Extension Service's Certified Master Gardener. She shares her expertise with providers to promote gardening with the children. If they grow vegetables, the children will eat them and Pat believes if children take care of a garden they will learn to enjoy eating the food for the rest of their lives. Pat rallied in support of labeling genetically engineered foods (also called genetically modified organisms, or GMOs) in Vermont. On May 8, 2014 Governor Shumlin signed Vermont's GMO labeling bill into law making Vermont the first state that will require labels on genetically engineered foods! The law will require labels on genetically engineered foods sold at retail outlets in Vermont. The law will go in to effect on July 1, 2016. Pat is devoted to making sure children receive nutritious meals and snacks through CACFP. It has been proven that children who maintain a well-balanced diet, with plenty of fruits and vegetables, and nutritionally complete meals help the child learn and grow and are the foundations that will help them achieve their fullest potential in the future.

### **Patricia Keane, MS, RD**

CHILE Plus Project Director  
University of New Mexico Prevention Research Center

Patty is a registered dietitian nutritionist, Associate Scientist and Lecturer at the University of New Mexico Prevention Research Center, where she oversees multiple nutrition research projects and programs, primarily in rural New Mexico communities. Most of her work centers on child nutrition, food security, and federal nutrition programs. Current projects include the USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)-funded Child Health Initiative for Lifelong Eating and Exercise (CHILE) Plus, an evidence-based nutrition and physical activity education intervention carried out in Head Start and other licensed child care centers in tribal and non-tribal communities across New Mexico, and a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-funded statewide evaluation of food and nutrition policies in New Mexico Head Start programs.

### **Phillip Hester, CMP, CCNP**

President  
Our Daily Bread of Tennessee

### **Rebecca Woolsey**

Assistant Director of the Zone  
YWCA of Adams County

Rebecca Woolsey is the Assistant Director of the Zone After School program. With over 5 years of kitchen experience, she has a wealth of knowledge in creating healthy, appetizing menus for all ages.

### **Renee Conklin, MS, RD**

CHILE Plus Nutrition Educator  
University of New Mexico Prevention Research Center

Renee Conklin is a registered dietitian nutritionist, and she is the Nutrition Educator for the CHILE Plus Project at the University of New Mexico Prevention Research Center. Renee had roles as an outpatient dietitian with the VA Healthcare System and served as a nutrition coordinator with the SNAP-Ed funded non-profit organization, Kids Cook!, before joining the Prevention Research Center. She completed her Bachelor of Science, Dietetic Internship, and Master of Science in Nutrition at the University of New Mexico. She also serves as the Public Policy Coordinator for the New Mexico Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

### **Rhonda Kobylecky, CMP**

Director of Food Services  
Acelero Learning Head Start Clark County

Rhonda Kobylecky has been working in Head Start for over 15 years, she serves as the Director of Food Services for Acelero Learning Head Start. While overseeing the Clark County Head Start Food Services, she also monitors and supports our delegate Head Starts Programs in Wisconsin, Philadelphia and New Jersey. In addition to her work with Head Start, she is also a Regional Representative and Board Member with the NCA and have been a presenter at the National Conference the past two years.

### **Rosa Romero, MEd**

Farm to Preschool Director  
Urban & Environmental Policy Institute, Occidental College

Rosa Romero, MEd Early Childhood Education, is the co-founder and current Director of the Farm to Preschool Program at the Urban and Environmental Policy Institute at Occidental College and Preschool Lead for the CA Farm to School Network. Rosa's work involves creating and piloting nutrition and garden based ECE curricula, providing technical assistance for school gardens and procurement, collaborating with ECE staff and parents to advocate for healthy food access in schools, homes, and communities and working to create regional food systems that support local farmers. She is also the Co-President of the South Central Farmers Health and Education Fund and a Certified Master Gardener through the University of California Cooperative Extension. She obtained her Master's in Education at the University of Hawaii, Manoa.

### **Rose Gioia-Fine**

Manager of Professional Development and Consultation  
Tuscarora Intermediate Unit

For over 25 years, Rose Gioia-Fine has been working to improve the lives of Pennsylvania's children and families. As a leader in Pennsylvania Family literacy and Family wellness initiatives, Ms. Gioia-Fine is often asked to present at the local, state and national level.

### **Ryan Brown**

Child Nutrition Program Specialist  
Texas Educational Service Center Region 4

Ryan discovered his love of food and the happiness that comes with it at a young age. This led him to obtain his BA in Psychology and BS in Nutrition, Exercise and Health Sciences for the University of Nebraska Lincoln. During his college years, he worked in the food service and hospitality industry, ultimately making his way to General Manager. After graduation, he uprooted and moved to West Texas to the Region 15 Education Service Center as a Child Nutrition Program Specialist where

he provides technical assistance and training to CACFP and SFSP centers and sponsors in the Region and presented at the National CACFP Sponsors Association Conference in 2016. Ryan now resides at the Region 4 Education Service Center in Houston, TX.

### **Samantha Marshall**

Co-Founder & Board President  
T&L Foundation for Child Care Information

Samantha Marshall is passionate about providing child care providers and CACFP Sponsors with the resources they need to establish healthy environments and habits in child care settings. She manages and writes for ChildCareInfo.com, a part of the Minute Menu Family, which is a free information and community website. She has recently co-founded a nonprofit called T&L Foundation for Child Care Information which aims to strengthen quality child care through health and wellness initiatives. Samantha is on the Board of Directors for the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC), the USDA/FNS Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Technical Assistance Stakeholders Group and the National Advisory Council for Nemours and American Academy of Pediatrics - Project HOPE. Samantha was also recognized as an Emerging Leader by Child Care Exchange Magazine and is, for the second year, Co-Chair of NAFCC's national conference.

### **Sandip Kaur**

Director of the Nutrition Services Division  
California Department of Education

Sandip Kaur is the Director of the Nutrition Services Division (NSD) of the California Department of Education. Ms. Kaur has served as Director since April 2011. Prior to this, she served as the Chief of the Administration and Food Distribution Program in NSD for seven years and was instrumental in the design, development, and implementation of the Web enabled Child Nutrition Information and Payment System. Ms. Kaur ensured successful implementation of all provisions of the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 in California. She has over 30 years of experience in California State government and worked at the Department of Food and Agriculture, Department of Corrections, and the Department of Personnel Administration before joining the NSD in May 2004.

### **Senta Hester, CMP, CCNP**

Founder & Executive Director  
Our Daily Bread of Tennessee

Senta established Our Daily Bread of Tennessee twenty years ago – a sponsor of daycare homes and daycare centers throughout the East Tennessee area, ODBTN services over 8,000 children per day. Senta first began her Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) career as a daycare home provider so she is well aware of what providers face on a day-to-day basis. When Senta became aware that federal reimbursement was available for the food which she was feeding to the children in her care, she enrolled as a recipient of the program and soon after started her own agency. The CACFP and ODBTN both have since become her passion. The founder of the Tennessee Sponsor's Association, Senta currently serves on the Board of Directors. She serves as the Vice President on the Board of Directors for the National CACFP Sponsors Association (NCA) where she has been an active member for ten years. Senta served on the Board of Directors of Directors for Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) as an active member for four years. Senta is also a member of the Childhood Obesity Coalition where she has been active for five years.

### **Shannon Amos**

Director of Afterschool Nutrition & Education  
Children's Hunger Alliance

During her 12-year tenure at Children's Hunger Alliance Shannon Amos has overseen afterschool nutrition and fitness programming for school-age children and for the last 6-years has directed the CACFP- Afterschool At-Risk sponsorship. Children's Hunger Alliance grew from sponsoring 69 unaffiliated afterschool programs in the greater Columbus, Ohio area in

2009-10 to over 220 programs in 7 major-metropolitan areas in Ohio in 2015-16. She has had the opportunity to present in numerous venues regarding afterschool nutrition and the CACFP, including at the National League of Cities CHAMP's grant meeting.

### **Sherri Ambrose**

EFNEP (Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program) Educator  
University of Illinois Extension EFNEP (Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program)

Sherri has been working with families with young children in Chicago for over 15 years. As a community educator and nutritionist, she believes deeply in empowering families and all members of the community to find creative ways to support the health and development of the whole family, especially young children. She received her undergraduate degree in English/Education and received her Master's degree in Nutrition from University of Illinois Chicago. Currently she leads a team of community nutrition educators on the north and west side of Chicago. They deliver programming to families and youth focusing on nutrition, food safety, food resource management and the importance of physical activity. She also offers technical support to childcare providers and other community agencies regarding nutrition and wellness.

### **Sherry Rackliff**

Executive Director  
Delaware Child Development

Sherry Rackliff brings over 40 years of experience working with children and families in education. She currently serves as the Executive Director of Delaware Child Development, working with local, national, and state agencies to provide the best learning environments for young children. Ms. Rackliff serves on the Board of Directors of the National Indian Child Care Association (NICCA) and the Oklahoma Tribal Child Care Association.

### **Sonia Cotto-Moreno**

Registered Dietitian  
Institute of Child Nutrition

Sonia Cotto-Moreno is a registered and licensed dietitian who has been active in the field of nutrition and food service systems for 20 years administering, operating and training on child nutrition programs in multiple states for a private non-profit organization. She utilizes innovative teaching strategies to facilitate acquisition of knowledge and skills in staff with diverse educational, cultural and language backgrounds. Her ability to translate food related policies and regulations into practice skills, enhance her training expertise in topics such as: food safety, kitchen math, USDA food buying guide, menu development, improving communication skills of food service workers, financial management of nutrition programs and healthy lifestyles. On numerous occasions she has presented nationally for the Office of Head Start on topics such as cultural competence and promoting physical activity in early child care settings. More recently her experiences include teaching undergraduate students in a Coordinated Program in Dietetics applied food science, food service management and community nutrition courses. She aligns competencies with cognitive, psychomotor, and affective learning objectives for future entry-level professionals in dietetics and community health education specialists. She implements flipped classroom learning methods promoting in-class application of skills by teams of students in principles of food science and food systems in the development, modification and evaluation of recipes, menus, food labels and products acceptable to diverse groups. The applied food science lab includes review of food safety and sanitation methods, basic food preparation techniques, and identifying the chemical, physical, sensory, and nutritional properties of food. Additionally, students learn the environmental role of food, nutrition and lifestyle choices in health promotion and disease prevention. Sonia received her Bachelors of Science from the University of Texas at Austin, and Masters in Public Health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She was born in New York City and spent a decade living in Europe. Her hobbies include tennis, swimming and running. She is a current member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, as well as the pediatric, public health and nutrition educators dietetic practice groups.

### **Sonya Barnes, MS, RD**

Chief, Child Nutrition Programs Nutrition and Technical Assistance  
USDA

Sonya Barnes serves as Chief of the USDA Child Nutrition Programs Nutrition and Technical Assistance Branch. In this role, she leads teams on projects and initiatives relating to USDA's Child Nutrition Programs such as the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program and the Child and Adult Care Food Program. Sonya's team also administers the HealthierUS School Challenge: Smarter Lunchrooms, an initiative under Michelle Obama's Let's Move! Campaign which seeks to improve the overall wellness environment of schools. Sonya is a registered dietitian and certified health coach. She also has an M.S. in Health Promotion Management with a concentration in Alternative Medicine.

### **Stephanie Joyce, MS, RD, SNS**

National Nutrition Advisor  
Alliance for a Healthier Generation

Stephanie Joyce is a National Nutrition Advisor with the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, specializing in assisting schools and out-of-school time sites successfully implement healthier meals and snacks nationwide. As a registered dietitian and school nutrition expert for the Alliance, Stephanie helps supports schools and sites create healthier food environments by providing in-person and virtual trainings, resources and technical assistance for schools and organizations across the U.S. Prior to joining the Alliance, Stephanie worked for a public school district in rural Maine first in Coordinated School Health and eventually moving into school nutrition, most recently serving as a school nutrition director for the Yarmouth School District. Stephanie holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Food Science and Human Nutrition from the University of Maine and a Master of Science degree in Public Health Nutrition from the University of Tennessee.

### **Suzanne Diggs**

Program Analyst  
FNS-USDA

Suzanne Diggs is a Program Analyst with the Program Monitoring and Operational Support Division of FNS' Child Nutrition Programs. Prior to that, she was with the Maryland Department of Human Resources. She oversees the National Disqualified List (NDL) at the National level. In addition to presenting the NDL workshop in 2016 in Orlando, FL, she has over 20 years of experience publically speaking to a variety of audiences on Nutrition Programs policy.

### **Suzanne Zanella, CMP, CCNP**

Sr. Project Director  
YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh

Suzanne has a Bachelor's degree in HR and has worked with the CACFP program for 30 years and is the current Mid-Atlantic Regional representative for NCA. She administrates the CACFP in Western Pennsylvania for both homes and centers. She has also trained for the YMCA of USA and numerous organizations presenting at the local, state and national level. Current Treasure and long term board member of her state's sponsor association she is instrumental in bring a state-wide training system to Pennsylvania.

### **Sylvia Meléndez Klinger, DBA, MS, RD**

Registered Dietitian and Founder  
Hispanic Food Communications

Sylvia Meléndez Klinger, a licensed and registered dietitian and certified personal trainer, is the founder of Hispanic Food Communications. She is a GFF scientific advisory board member and a leading expert in cross-cultural Hispanic cuisine as it relates to nutrition and health. She uses her in-depth culinary and cultural expertise to introduce new strategies for wellness to an increasingly health-conscious Hispanic population.

### **Tarrah Moreno**

Child Nutrition Specialist, CACFP & SFSP  
Region 17 Education Service Center

Tarrah has three years of experience as a Child Nutrition Specialist in Lubbock, Texas at Region 17 Education Service Center. Her primary role is a CACFP trainer for administrators and staff that work in Child and Adult Care Centers, Day Care Homes, and At-Risk Afterschool Care Programs. She also provides technical assistance and support to organizations that operate the CACFP. Prior to working at the Service Center, Tarrah was a Culinary Arts teacher for a public school district in West Texas. She has a Bachelor of Science in Family and Consumer Sciences from Texas Tech University and holds a Certificate of Education from Texas Education Agency.

### **Terry Rodan**

Senior Program Specialist  
USDA Mid-Atlantic Region

Terry is currently employed at USDA-MARO within the Community Nutrition Branch as a senior program specialist, working within the Child and Adult Care Food (CACFP) and Summer Food Service (SFSP) programs. Previously he worked for Pennsylvania Department of Education as the manager of CACFP and SFSP. He is a retired military officer and high school principal.

### **Tia M. Rains, PhD**

Executive Director  
Egg Nutrition Center

Tia M. Rains, Ph.D., is the Executive Director of Egg Nutrition Center. She joined the organization as the Senior Director of Nutrition Research and Communications in July of 2013. Prior to that, she was Senior Director of Metabolic Sciences at Biofortis Clinical Research, a firm specializing in the design and management of clinical trials in nutrition and cardiometabolic disease risk factor management. Dr. Rains started her career at Kraft Foods, holding various positions within the Research and Development organization over 9 years. Dr. Rains received her B.S. degree in Foods and Nutrition while competing on the Arizona State University swim team as a scholarship athlete, and her Ph.D. from the University of Illinois Nutritional Sciences program in 1998, where her research interests included appetite regulation and vitamin and mineral nutrition.

### **Traci Causey, MS, MBA, SNS**

Programs & Education Manager  
Seafood Nutrition Partnership

Traci Briant Causey is Programs & Education Manager for Seafood Nutrition Partnership, an organization focused on inspiring a healthier America through partnerships that raise awareness about the essential nutritional benefits of eating seafood. Traci is a graduate of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette with a Bachelor of Science degree in Dietetics and holds the degrees of Master of Business Administration and Master of Science in Food Systems Administration from Texas Woman's University. She also holds the School Nutrition Specialist (SNS) credential through the School Nutrition Association. Traci is a passionate, servant leader in the nutrition industry. She has served in management roles in various areas of the nutrition field, which include higher education foodservice, community-based nutrition programs, and K-12 school nutrition. Her expertise lies in supporting school districts and community organizations with development of nutrition education and with the implementation and regulatory compliance of child nutrition programs administered by USDA. In addition to her position at the Seafood Nutrition Partnership, she is the Virginia Co-Chair for Action for Healthy Kids.

## Trina Robertson, MS, RDN

Project Manager  
Dairy Council of California

Trina Robertson began her career as a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist working with parents and children at WIC and Head Start. Trina is currently a Project Manager at Dairy Council of California and manages the organization's evaluation projects. She works with researchers to evaluate the effectiveness of nutrition education of children and adults delivered in schools and community settings. She co-leads the program development team and helps to develop resources that are support recommendations to improve health literacy. During her extensive career at Dairy Council of CA, her work continues to focus on elevating the health of children and adults through healthy eating resources that address the individual as well as the social and physical environment. She frequently collaborates with local partners including Orange County Health Care Agency. She enjoys the challenges of learning how to best encourage personalized improvements while retaining individual preferences. She recently completed the development and evaluation of an online nutrition program for high school students and is now leading the development of a preschool parent nutrition education booklet.

## Valeria Anglin

Director  
Essential Needs

Valeria Anglin 48 years of age and mother of 1 has been a Sponsor for 3 years in the State of Tennessee, yet she realized in the early stages that in order to be completely effective in her role she has go above and beyond to create processes that will help to ensure compliance for her organization, and the providers in which Essential Needs sponsors. Valeria has worked in different capacities in the CACFP - provider, monitor, and recruiter. As Executive Director Valeria hit the ground rolling by teaching business branding to providers that are sponsored by Essential Needs. Valeria's motto is "Where you start is not where you have to end". Valeria is a true testament that perseverance is the only way to overcome adversity. Valeria has worked diligently within the State of Tennessee to get information out about the Child and Adult Food Program to rural areas like Dickson County, Grand Junction TN, Springfield, as well as populated inner city low income areas where children are being cared for in In-Home Daycare's often time still labeling themselves as "baby sitters". Valeria developed processes to help ensure compliance for any new or existing sponsor, while working as an Executive Administrative Assistant and as a Payroll Processor Valeria was able to utilize knowledge and put things in place that most small sponsoring organization would not be able to afford. Valeria believes that Sponsors should be viewed as a complement to each other instead of competition for the goal of the CACFP is to ensure that children are receiving healthy nutritious meals while reducing childhood hunger.

## Veronica Orona-Klinger

Field Services Department Head  
YMCA Childcare Resource Service

Veronica Klinger is currently the Department Head of Field Services at the YMCA Childcare Resource Service and oversees unique child care programs that promote the behavior, physical and emotional health of children in the child care setting. Veronica and the Field Service team of Health Educators are active members of the Childhood Obesity Initiative and are involved in many policy, systems and environmental change projects that help address the issue of the childhood obesity epidemic in San Diego. Through collaborative efforts with community partners the team has provided technical assistance to hundreds of early childcare providers in making environmental changes that promote nutrition and physical activity, reaching over 12,000 children in San Diego county. Veronica obtained her MPA at San Diego State University and has been with the YMCA for 10 years.

## Vicki Lipscomb, CMP

Policy Chair & President  
National CACFP Sponsors Association

Vicki Lipscomb is the Founder and President of Child Nutrition Program, Inc. in Charlotte, North Carolina. She founded the Child Nutrition Program in 1982, which now sponsors 300 homes serving 2,500 children and 260 centers serving 12,000 children. Vicki has led the Child Nutrition Program to steady annual growth and due to her background in Public Administration she has a deep understanding of how to run an effective federal program. As the head of the Policy and Regulation committee Vicki stays up to date on the latest regulations and changes to the food program to inform and interpret the policies to help the sponsors function in this complicated regulatory environment. She works with the USDA as an advocate for the CACFP to ensure that providers can work more efficiently and effectively in their homes or centers. Vicki also advocates for child care providers and sponsoring organizations as a member of the Paper Work Reduction Work Group. In addition, she annually volunteers to lead workshops at the NCA conference, especially in the area of sponsoring child care centers. Vicki currently serves as the President of the Board of Directors for the National CACFP Sponsors Association.

### **Wendy Johnson-Askew, PhD, MPH, RD**

Vice-President, Corporate Affairs  
Gerber Products Company

Wendy Johnson-Askew is Vice President of Corporate Affairs with Gerber Products Company / Nestle Infant Nutrition, North America. In this role she leads the Corporate Affairs Function which includes Medical Advocacy and Public Policy, Nutrition, Health and Wellness and Corporate Communications. Wendy is a member of the Institute of Medicine's Food Forum and a member of the International Food Information Council Board of Directors. She is an active member of the American Public Health Association where she is a Past Chair of the Food and Nutrition Section and a member of the Inter-Sectional Council Steering Committee. Prior to joining Nestle, Wendy was employed by the National Institutes of Health, Division of Nutrition Research Coordination as a public health nutrition and health policy adviser. While there she was actively involved in the development and follow-up actions to the Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent and Decrease Overweight and Obesity and the Dietary Guidelines process. She developed scientific symposia on communicating dietary information and determinants of eating behavior which informed the granting process by leading to the development of requests for proposals. Throughout her career Wendy has maintained her Registered Dietitian credential which has allowed her to hold a number of clinical nutrition management positions and nutrition faculty positions. Wendy received her BA in chemistry, MPH in nutrition and PhD in nutrition and health policy from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her research interests include determinants of eating behavior, racial and ethnic health disparities and obesity.

### **Yanni Papanikolaou**

VP, Nutrition Science Research  
Nutritional Strategies

Yanni Papanikolaou previously worked for the Kellogg Company as Director of Nutrition Marketing in the USA, and Associate Director for Nutrition and Regulatory Affairs in Canada. At Kellogg USA, he led nutrition marketing for the Morning Foods business unit, which represented the largest Kellogg business unit. He played a leadership role in strategy development and leveraged nutrition science to influence government bodies on policy development and in the creation of evidence-based consumer and health professional messaging. Yanni holds a Masters of Health Science in Public Health Nutrition and is completing a Ph.D. at University of Toronto focusing on nutrition and brain health with a specific focus on carbohydrate and memory function in adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus. Yanni is an accomplished, peer-reviewed author in scientific/medical journals, book chapters and has presented at conferences worldwide. Yanni was recently acknowledged at Dietary Fiber 2015 for contributions in public health nutrition research.

### **Zainab Rida, PhD, RD, LMNT**

Director, NE Team Nutrition Program  
Nebraska Department of Education

Dr. Rida is a Registered Dietitian, and Licensed Medical Nutrition Therapist. She has a PhD in Nutrition and Health Sciences. Dr. Rida is the Project Director for Nebraska Team Nutrition for the Nebraska Department of Education. Dr. Rida is also an adjunct professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln teaches graduate classes including Transdisciplinary Childhood

Obesity Prevention and Community Nutrition. She has over 15 years of experience in the nutrition field through teaching at the University of Nebraska Lincoln and through SNAP-Ed, WIC and Team Nutrition programs. Dr. Rida has been involved in promoting health and wellness professionally and academically. She has been working across a wide variety of disciplines collaborating with experts in government and public policy, medical sociology and social science in an effort to design empirical strategies to create social and physical environments that promote good health in Nebraska. Dr. Rida provides leadership to NE schools, professional Organizations and higher education in the areas of health, nutrition, and physical activity to fulfill the federally mandated school wellness policy.