



**SCHOOL  
NUTRITION  
ASSOCIATION**  
OF OHIO

PUBLICATION OF THE SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION OF OHIO

# THIS IS THE

**AUTUMN  
2022**

## President's Message

*Janelle Brunswick, RD, LD, SNS, President, SNA of Ohio*



I am ecstatic and honored to serve as the SNA of Ohio President this school year. We have a dedicated board that will work hard to meet the goals we have set for our state. One of our new and exciting goals is establishing a mentoring program that we plan to roll out next year to help our members feel confident in serving on the board.

I hope everyone had a successful start to the school year. After coming out of last year we have all had to be more resilient than ever and I never thought I would have to “pivot” as much I did this past summer at the “blackout” SNA of Ohio Conference. Thank you again to everyone who pulled together to make the event possible.

I have been reading the book “The Power of Moments” by Chip and Dan Heath which goes into depth about why certain experiences have extraordinary impact. The book specifies four elements that dominate our most memorable positive moments: elevation, insight, pride, and connection. If we welcome these elements into our lives, we can seek more moments that matter. We have the opportunity to create moments everyday when interacting with our staff, students and families. Going above and beyond to make someone feel special and valued is one of the best contributions you can give to someone else. My favorite Maya Angelou quote is “I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” Let’s make moments count this school year!

In line with creating more positive moments, I wanted to share the three beliefs that our district has built into our culture. I feel that these beliefs also apply to SNA of Ohio’s culture and I challenge you this year to integrate these into your department.

- Own the moment - Better today than yesterday, better tomorrow than today
- Build meaningful relationships - We are stronger together
- Your story matters - Everyone feels valued

One of my favorite attributes about being involved with SNA is building meaningful relationships. Great teams, like the SNA of Ohio Board and the Industry Advisory Council (IAC), have all started with relationships. I hope you get a chance to attend a SNA of Ohio or National SNA event this year and continue building relationships and/or start new ones.

Thank you for everything you do for Ohio’s children. You do it with integrity, hard work and professionalism.

*Life is a series of moments. The quality of attention and action that we bring to each moment determines the quality of our lives.*

*-- Dan Millman*

# SNA Ohio 2022 – 2023 Executive Committee

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The SNA of Ohio newsletter is published three times a year. Circulation is 1,000+.

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# SAVE THE DATES!!!

## Ohio SNIC

March 15, 2023

Bridgewater Conference Center – Powell, Ohio

The Ohio SNIC event format is a full day of education and a showcase of our valued SNA of Ohio Platinum Industry Partners! Earn CEUs and learn about products and services provided by our Platinum Partners! Look for registration information in early 2023!



## SNA of Ohio Annual Conference *“Building to Empower”*

June 20-22, 2023

Embassy Suites Columbus-Dublin

Are you in the process of rebuilding a self-sustaining school nutrition program after several years of pandemic chaos? Collaborate with and learn from other districts at the 2023 SNA of Ohio Annual Conference! Hear what districts from around the state are doing to rebuild their programs with a key focus on building to empower. The conference will have several tracks of CEUs dedicated to personal growth, building successful teams, and stronger communities. Look for more information in early 2023!

# Congratulations to the awesome SNA of Ohio members who received recognition in 2022!

Each year the SNA of Ohio honors those that go above and beyond in the industry. We are so proud of the following individuals for their commitment to providing Ohio's students with the nutrition that they need to learn better in the classroom.

**The 2023 SNA of Ohio Director of the Year AND SNA National Midwest Regional Director of the Year is Lori McKean Brace with Wapakoneta City Schools!** Lori was nominated by Carrie Woodruff. Lori's nomination included her excellence as a collaborator and mentor in her district. Lori's back to school staff training event is noted as a highlight for providing staff knowledge but also providing a change for staff to get to know one another and has been extremely beneficial. Lori is thorough, detailed, and a skilled budgeter – and she is always ready to prepare for the next task and to lead her group into action. Congratulations Lori! You make Ohio and the entire Midwest Region proud!

**The 2023 SNA of Ohio Manager of the Year AND SNA National Midwest Regional Manager of the Year is Amy Uecker with West Clermont High School!** Amy was nominated by Megan Grippa. Her nomination included highlights about Amy's quality customer service, innovative thinking, and willingness to always step up! Amy is very respected by her staff and peers, and she is an incredible leader. Congratulations, Amy, for this well-deserved honor – not only in Ohio, but in our region!

**The 2023 SNA of Ohio Employee of the Year is Erna Brace with Brown Local School.** Erna was nominated by Stacey Bettis. Stacey noted in her nomination included Erna's excellent customer service to the students and staff, as well as within the district and community. Erna puts the needs of others above her own. Stacey noted that Erna is an inspiration to many – including community members and current and former staff members. Stacey concluded that Erna is knowledgeable, hardworking, dedicated, and a team player – things we all wish we could clone to have hundreds of Ernas. Well done, Erna, and congratulations!

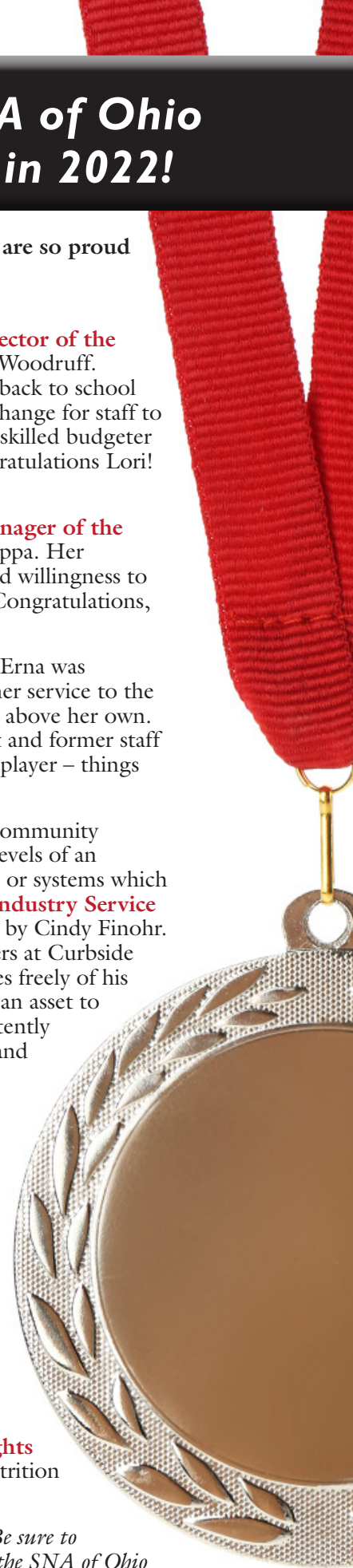
**The Industry Service Award** recognizes an individual among the Child Nutrition Industry community who has demonstrated excellence in their profession. The award is open to individuals at any levels of an organization who has contributed to the development and deployment of innovative products or systems which are designed to improve Child Nutrition operations, menus or enhance services. **The 2022 Industry Service Award winner is Lincoln Yee with International Food Solutions!** Lincoln was nominated by Cindy Finohr. Cindy state that Lincoln emotes industry leadership daily. He is available to Districts, volunteers at Curbside locations, networks, and even created a meal kit for schools to use of several products. He gives freely of his time and resources by assisting with ideas, product tastings, spending time with interns. He is an asset to us all and his hard work ethic and dedication to the field should not go unnoticed. He consistently assists us all with coordinating network events, even hikes! Congratulations to you, Lincoln, and thank you for your support of our industry!

**The Most Valuable Superintendent** is given to leaders who exemplify an eagerness to understand and assist the nutrition programs in our schools. **The 2022 Most Valuable Superintendent is Aireane Curtis with Windham Exempted Village School District.** Ms. Curtis was nominated by Patricia Vicich. Patricia noted in her nomination that Ms. Curtis is extremely engaged with the school nutrition program. She has a presence in the cafeteria and with the students and always has such a pleasant, positive demeanor with students and the cafeteria staff. Ms. Curtis, congratulations on this well-deserved honor!

**The Buckeye Service Award** honors those members who have been working for students for 25 years or more. Buckeye Service Award winners work through countless changes and triumphs within the profession and have provided an immeasurable amount of time and experience to keep children healthy! Congratulations to this year's recipient: **Cynthia Todd with Austintown Local Schools!**

**SNA of Ohio would like to congratulate Cindy Finohr with Brecksville Broadview Heights City Schools on her recent retirement!** Cindy, thank you for all you have done for school nutrition in your career!

*Congratulations to ALL of our award and scholarship winners on their amazing achievements! Be sure to look for the 2023 Award and Scholarship information later this year in your email inbox and on the SNA of Ohio website to submit your nominations for 2023!*





# Menu Planning Just Got Smoother



1/2 Cup Fruit Credits

Smooth-Frozen  
**sidekicks**



1/2 Cup "Additional"  
Vegetable Credits

Smooth-Frozen  
**sidekicks**  
**blend**



1/2 Cup Red/Orange  
Vegetable Credits

For more information contact Maureen Zapf at [MZapf@countrypure.com](mailto:MZapf@countrypure.com).



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through  
★ Nov. 25th, 2022

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2022-2023

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Celebration & Chocolate  
Cream Chip Flavors



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51% Whole Grain  
Soft Pretzel Sticks



WHOLE FRUIT®  
Wild Cherry Cup



SHAPE-UPS®  
Pumpkin Swirl Cup

## QUALIFYING STEPS

**STEP 1**

Purchase and menu the featured products between **August 1<sup>st</sup> - Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**STEP 2**

Send URL link of your menu to **Support@CoolSchoolCafe.com** with your distributor invoice or velocity report by **January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023!**

**STEP 3**

Option: Submit your menu with your distributor invoice or velocity reports via mail to:  
**Cool School Cafe, PO Box 535 Becker, MN 55308**

Receive your Cool School Points!

★ **Contact  
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# SNA of Ohio

## 2022-2023 Board of Directors

### APPOINTED/ELECTED/ EX-OFFICIO

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**TBD (2024)**  
*West Central Regional Director*

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In Central/Southern Ohio Markets:  
Cynthia Faccenda 937-840-8894  
[cfaccenda@rizwitsch.com](mailto:cfaccenda@rizwitsch.com)





# Submitting Your Monthly Claims is Now as **Easy as 1,2,3**

Easily submit monthly claims to Ohio's CRRS directly from your TITAN platform in just three easy steps:

1.

Open your claims



2.

Check the tabs for errors



3.

Submit the claim to the State



[Simplify My Claims](#)

LINQ





# 2022-2023 SNA of Ohio Industry Advisory Council (IAC)

## 2022-23 Chair

**Kevin Leonard** - Term ends '24  
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*Please note: All term dates are August 1 - July 31*

## Industry Advisory Council Fall Letter

Thank you for the opportunity to write today. On behalf of all of the vendor community, thank you for what you do every day feeding our children! I know the last couple years have been especially difficult with staffing shortages, supply chain disruptions, and dealing with all the changes associated with COVID-19. Your strength, creativity, and persistence has been exceptional and we commend you for it!! Be proud of yourself for the work you did!

2021 and 2022 has also been a challenge for SNA Ohio. We had to cancel or reschedule almost every event which made several event dates close together. We learned how to conduct a conference with no electric! Who needs electric? Huge shoutout to Tracey Hogan for guiding us through those obstacles. She has been amazing. **BUT** - the worst of COVID appears to be behind us, the supply chain is getting better every day and we aren't going to talk about staffing LOL - we all hope that will improve soon also.

My message today is one of hope, optimism and appreciation. We survived the worst pandemic in the history of the United States and we are stronger for it. We created new methods of serving meals that will make us more flexible in the future. We learned more ways to use plexiglass than the world has ever seen! We have developed

new hiring ideas and methods to recruit employees and we will continue to do so as we all determine what motivates the next generation to work in school food service. We have developed new recipes and combinations because we didn't have the normal food items that were ordered - and the children liked them! We learned how to take lemons - half as many as we ordered - and make lemonade!! We proved that no matter what you throw at us, we will meet and overcome that challenge. If we can overcome the last 2 years, is there anything we can't overcome? What does not kill us will make us stronger and it did not kill us! Now that the storm has passed, the sky is bluer and the grass is greener for it. Let's put the storm in our rearview mirror and move forward together! I am excited about the opportunities that the future is going to bring and appreciate the fact that we survived the storm. We certainly still have challenges and we all need to continue to get better every day but we now know we can do it!!

On behalf of the IAC board and all of the vendor community, you have our commitment that we will work hard every day to serve your needs and help in any way possible. Please let us know how we can help you.

*Kevin Leonard*, SNA of Ohio IAC Chairperson



# TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS



## SMOOTHIES FOR YOUR SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAM

The American Dairy Association Mideast is offering a smoothie equipment grant, valued at \$1,020, for K-12 schools in Ohio and West Virginia to serve smoothies as part of their school meal programs.



## OFFERING SMOOTHIES AS PART OF SCHOOL MEALS

Smoothies may be offered as part of reimbursable school meals in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program.



## SAFELY SERVING DAIRY OUTSIDE THE CAFETERIA

Using a milk crate cold bag can help you safely serve smoothies in the classroom or at a grab and go station. Contact your area representative if your school is in need of these insulated bags and follow these tips for how to make the most of them.



For additional school resources, visit [Drink-Milk.com](http://Drink-Milk.com)

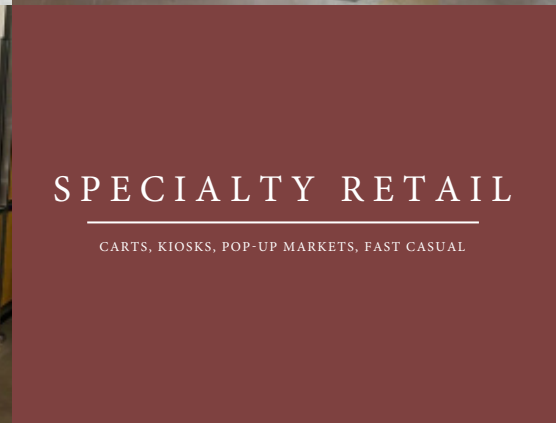
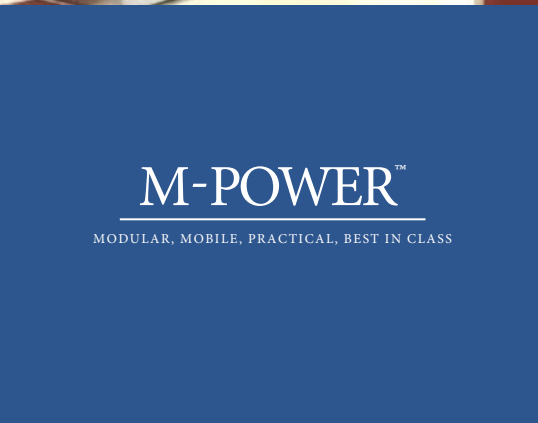




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# PUBLIC POLICY AND LEGISLATION

*Submitted by Deanne Kelbley, RD, LD, SNS, Public Policy & Legislation Chair for SNA of Ohio*

The best way we can use our voices on behalf of the children is to attend the Legislative Action Conference (LAC) in Washington, D.C. We personally present important aspects of Child Nutrition that we would like to see changed/improved to each of our Congressmen, Congresswomen and Senators. By personally visiting them, we have successfully obtained additional USDA funding, as well as reverting back to some of the less stringent nutritional guidelines. You, too, can be the voice for the children of your district(s) ~ plan on attending LAC from March 5-7, 2023. To find out who your local Congress(wo)man is, go to: <http://cqrcengage.com/schoolnutrition/home?0> and type in your address in the “Look Up Your Legislators” section in the middle of the page. You can type in both your home and work address to find out who represents you. Please note: your Representative may change after January 2023, so make sure to check back after that time.

LAC is a very important conference to attend, as we are the voice for all students. “With great power comes great responsibility!” Some of those responsibilities while in Washington, D.C. are, but not limited to:

- 1) Attending all general sessions, along with break-out sessions
- 2) Adhering to the provided dress code
- 3) Advocating on Capitol Hill (with permission from your employer)

A great way to keep up on all legislative issues is to subscribe to SNA’s Tuesday Morning publication. Go to <https://schoolnutrition.org/TuesdayMorning/> and click on “Sign Up for Tuesday Morning.”

The School Nutrition Association of Ohio recently became a supporter of the Hunger-Free Schools Ohio Campaign. Because of this Campaign, a resolution was recommended to the Ohio General Assembly to use the American Rescue Plan State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to provide free breakfast and lunch to all Ohio students. For more information, visit the Campaign website at <https://hungerfreeschoolsoh.org/>.

The Ohio Department of Education has done a great job of keeping us updated with their weekly Items of Interest emails. Be sure to sign up for trainings in CRRS and keep open communication with your Education Program Specialist at ODE.

Helpful downloadable documents for this school year can be found on CRRS under Applications>Download Forms>2022-2023 School Year Resources.

## SNA National Awards Information

### NOMINATE A COLLEAGUE YOU ADMIRE!

SNA celebrates members who work every day to ensure well-nourished students across the country are prepared for success. Nominate an **employee, manager, and/or director** that you admire to be recognized for all of their great contributions!

Visit the link below for full details and to submit your nominations by March 1, 2023!

<https://schoolnutrition.org/Membership/AwardsScholarships/>





## Level II **Reduced Sodium** Cheese Sauces & Pasta Entrees

To help you meet Level II sodium guidelines, we've shaken out the sodium in some of our most popular products and student favorites. Our NEW premium, reduced sodium cheese products are crafted with all the things you love like real cheddar cheese and whole-grain rich pasta, and without the things you don't, like phosphates and artificial flavors.

- Formulated to help you meet Target 2 sodium guidelines
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- Packed with protein - provides M/MA contribution
- Menu versatility - works for multiple menu applications
- Labor savings - fully prepared, heat & serve

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**49%**  
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CHEESE SAUCE**  
209 mg of sodium

**49%**  
less sodium\*

Item #5741  
**Premium Reduced-Sodium  
ALFREDO SAUCE**  
196 mg of sodium

**51%**  
less sodium\*

Item #5742  
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\* 5734 has a 49.4% sodium reduction compared to 5705  
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# SNA of Ohio Leadership Spotlight Kelsey Warren RDN, LD

**Current Position on the SNA of Ohio Board:**  
Vice President

**Current District Title:**  
Child Nutrition & Wellness Director, Sycamore  
Community Schools

**How many years have you worked in child nutrition?**  
This will be my 8th year.

**What is your favorite thing about being involved in SNA?**  
Collaboration, networking and the learning opportunities

**What are you most passionate about professionally?**  
Being innovative and finding ways to provide healthy options to our students!

**My Favorites:**

- School Lunch: Made to order deli sandwiches!
- Music: Usually just listen to today's hits!
- Vacation: Seconda, Arizona
- Hobby: Crossfit, reading and spending time with family and friends!

## CONGRATULATIONS, EVIE HESS!



On Friday September 2, Retired Vermilion Food Service Manager, Evie Hess was inducted in Vermilion High School "Hall of Fame".

*"I feel honored to represent School Food Service staff everywhere. I think it is wonderful that others outside of our profession recognize what we all do on a daily basis to make sure the children of this country get fed."*

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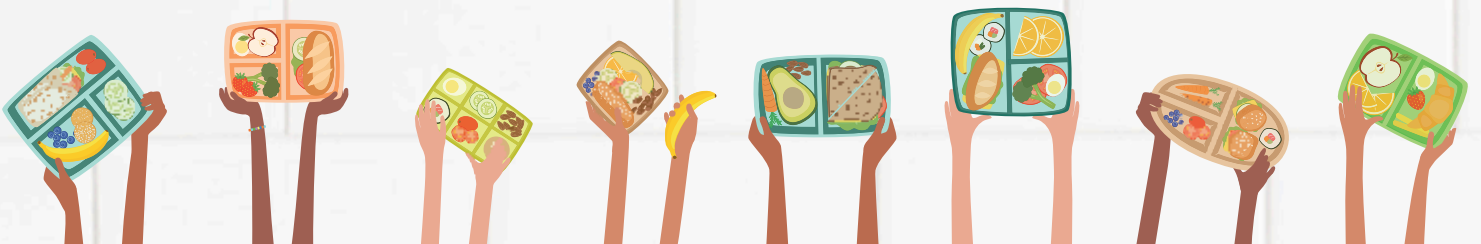




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Mike Rykaceski - Eastern Ohio	412.860.2655
Gerald Rosales - Northwest Ohio	734.476.1401
Charley Miller - Northeast Ohio	216.406.4198
Kevin Leonard - President	513.310.9043

# September 2022 Expo & Education Event Highlights

We were so happy to see so many of you IN PERSON at the September 28th Expo & Education Event in Newark, Ohio!

The day began with back to back sessions by Ervin Watson. We are so thankful for his knowledge of school nutrition, coupled with data, energy and actionable takeaways. The final session of the morning was presented by Sea Level Social, “Telling Your Program’s Story Through Pictures”. We are certain that you learned lots of ways to implement this information in your districts immediately!

The Annual School Nutrition Expo was held that afternoon and included the newest products, equipment, and services available to school nutrition personnel.

And, back by popular demand - our industry partners brought back the designer handbag raffle to the Expo! Congratulations to all of our prize winners! And, a sincere thank you to our industry partners for the dedication and participation!

It was truly an educational AND fun day together for this event! SNA of Ohio Board Member Briana Cates said she felt energized, and that attending conferences helps prevent burnout. Who else could use that sort of motivation surrounded by fellow school nutrition professionals? Be sure to plan to join us and save the dates on your calendar for Ohio SNIC on March 15th and the Annual Conference June 20th – 22nd! Both events will be held in central Ohio!







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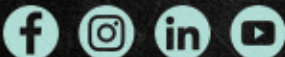
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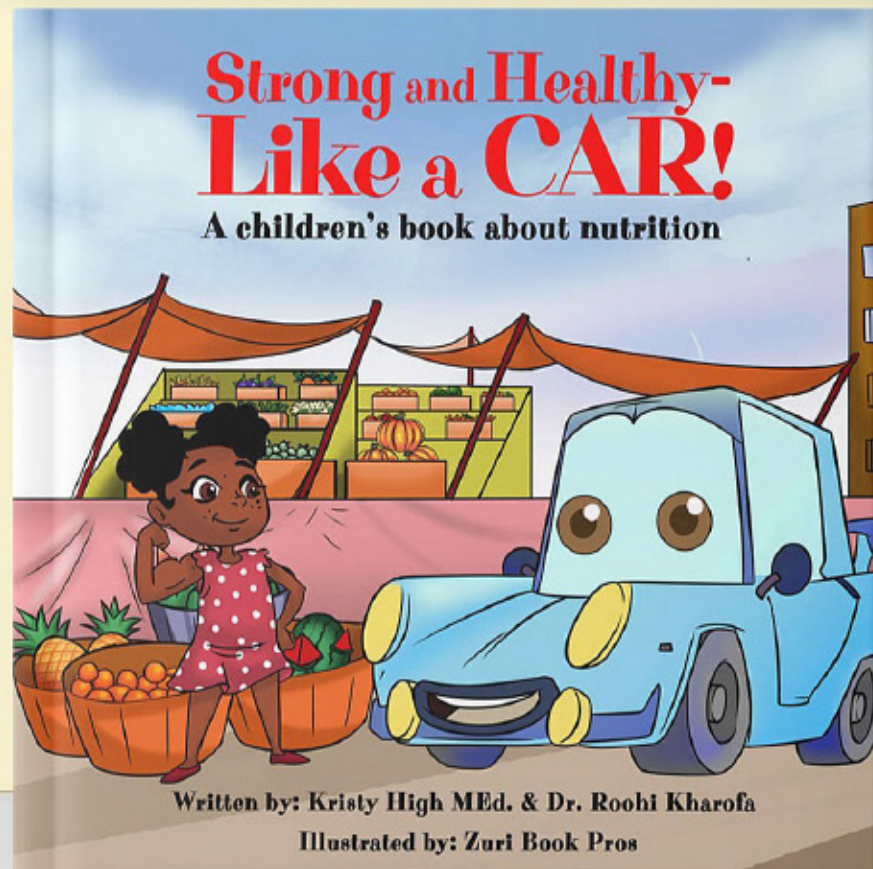


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## Basic American Foods 34th Annual FAME Awards Winners Announced



Walnut Creek, California — November 2, 2022  
Basic American Foods is proud to announce the 2023 Foodservice Achievement Management Excellence (FAME) Awards winners.

The FAME Awards' most prestigious honor, the Golden Foodservice Director of the Year Award, is presented to Jessica Shelly, Director of Student Dining Services, Cincinnati Public Schools, Cincinnati, Ohio. Jessica creates a dining experience for the students she serves and is known for her ability to “not just serve school lunch, but to serve lunch at school.” By empowering choice and offering options, Jessica increased high school lunch participation from 48% to 76%.

The 2023 FAME Silver Leadership Award winner is Christine Clarahan, Director of Food and Nutrition Services, School City of Hammond, Hammond, Indiana. Christine's strength is growing others into leaders. She was the first to implement a comprehensive leadership training program for all staff, which no other district ‘non-curricular’ department had ever done. With her six years as the director, Christine passionately values her staff and works hard to ensure fair compensation for all.

Lauren Koff, Dietician for Houston County Schools, Perry, Georgia, is the 2023 FAME Silver Spirit Award winner. For the last ten years Lauren has far exceeded the original scope of her position. Whether it's developing a local food show, training others in growing their careers, obtaining grant money, or bringing CEP to over half of the schools in the district, Lauren is invested in all parts of her school foodservice program. She is well respected beyond her Houston County family and is regularly requested to speak at conferences.

The 2023 FAME Rising Star Award winner is Melanie Romano, School Nutrition Director, Alliance Charter Schools, Charlotte, North Carolina. With just two years of experience, Melanie has successfully transitioned Alliance from a vended, catered contract to a delicious, self-prep program offering multiple nutritious entrees daily, thus establishing much high meal participation and satisfaction. This change increased breakfast participation in one of the Alliance schools from 106% to 274%.

For over 30 years, the FAME Awards have recognized outstanding heroes in K-12 foodservice who raise industry standards by making a difference within their school districts and communities.

The 34th Annual FAME Awards ceremony will be held live and in person during the School Nutrition Conference on January 15th. For more information, visit [FAME Awards](#).



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1. Datassential 2021 menu trend analysis 2. Over 200 students sampled & provided feedback, Spring 2022  
3. 3CAGR 7/21-4/22 Kellogg Internal Sales Data; NPJ Supply Track L12mos ending 4/22 4. CNOP (Cereal Nutrition Outreach Program) ©, TM, ©, 2022 Kellogg NA Co.



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