



Saturday, June 25 - General Session



Jeanne Blankenship, MS RDN

Advocacy for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics since 2010. Jeanne is the visionary for the Academy's policy and advocacy platform which focuses on professional issues for dietitians and nutrition professionals as well as food and nutrition policy for consumers. Her advocacy work includes areas such as appropriations, coverage and reimbursement for medical nutrition therapy, malnutrition, hunger and nutrition security across the lifespan, telehealth, and work force diversity, inclusivity and demands.

Jeanne oversees state government relations -- including consumer protection and licensure initiatives, grassroots advocacy, and regulatory affairs for the Academy. She manages the organization's Political Action Committee, Legislative and Public Policy Committee and the Consumer Protection and Licensure Subcommittee.

As a nationally recognized expert in obesity and weight management, Jeanne has championed the need for access to comprehensive treatment in her advocacy efforts and is a past co-chair of the Obesity Care and Advocacy Network. She is an ex-officio member of the Obesity Action Coalition board of directors and represents the Academy at the Roundtable on Obesity Solutions convened by the National Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine. Jeanne was part of the Provider Education and Training Workgroup that developed the Provider Competencies for the Prevention and Management of Obesity document.

Jeanne is a representative to the United States Breastfeeding Committee and has held leadership positions as secretary and chair. She currently is a member of the USBC's finance committee. As a long-time advocate of maternal child health, Jeanne directs lobbying efforts to expand nutrition care and services for pregnancy, lactation and early childhood nutrition care.

Connecting nutrition security to agriculture and climate is an area of interest for Jeanne who serves on the board of directors of the National Coalition for Food and Agriculture Research. She stands with partner organizations to advocate for federal nutrition research funding and to increase the visibility and underscore the importance of scientific evidence to support national nutrition policies.

Prior to working in Policy and Advocacy, she held positions at the University of California, Davis Medical Center as a Senior Clinical Dietitian in Northern California's largest bariatric surgery program and served as its nutrition coordinator. She also worked at the USDA Western Nutrition Research Center as the Principal Dietitian. Her experience includes positions in long term care, the Women' Infants and Children Program (WIC) and private practice.

Jeanne received a B.S. degree in Clinical Dietetics from Arizona State University and an M.S. degree in Nutrition Sciences at Oklahoma State University.