

# Dora Rivas, MS, RD, SNS

## 2012 Dallas Dietetic Association Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

Eve Pearson, RD, LD, Dallas Dietetic Association 2012-13

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On behalf of the Dallas Dietetic Association board of directors I would like to congratulate Dora Rivas as the recipient of the 2012 DDA Lifetime Achievement Award. This is the highest honor that is awarded to a DDA member, and we are thrilled that her extensive contributions to our profession and the community are being publicly recognized.

Dora Rivas has had a distinguished career in school nutrition. In Texas, she has developed a culture of excellence in two different school districts, Brownsville ISD and Dallas ISD. In Brownsville, her district was recognized for its program of excellence by the Texas School Food Service Association. In Dallas, under Dora's leadership, the district was designated a School Nutrition Association District of Excellence. In 2012, 154 Dallas ISD elementary schools received the prestigious USDA HealthierUS School Challenge award. At the national level, Dora has served the School Nutrition Association as Southwest Regional Director, Public Policy and Legislation Chair, and in 2009 as the national President.

Her school nutrition career has been recognized by two national awards, the 2000 FAME Golden Star Award (Foodservice Achievement in Management Excellence) through SNA and the 2005 IFMA Silver Plate Award. (International Food manufacturer's Assoc) She also has been awarded an honorary doctorate in Foodservice by the International Food and Equipment Manufacturer's Association in 2010.

Currently Dora is working with a Dallas Dietetic Association (DDA) committee that will help partner DDA dietitians and chefs in the "Let's Move" Initiatives and "Chefs Move to Schools" efforts. Dora is a strong advocate for RDs choosing careers in school nutrition. She has spoken to dietetic classes at Dallas internship programs and has coordinated efforts to provide nutrition and management rotations with University of Texas Southwestern Dietetic Internship Program and Texas Woman's University (TWU). She also piloted the first School Nutrition Specialist (SNS) Internship in the country in coordination with TWU interns.

Dora has consistently brought her expertise as a dietitian to the school nutrition arena with a quiet, gracious demeanor and respect for all. She is highly regarded by both school nutrition and dietetics professionals in Texas and throughout the country. Dora Rivas' work in school nutrition has touched children's lives in Dallas, in Texas and across the USA. Dora is certainly a deserving recipient for the Dallas Dietetic Association Lifetime Achievement Award.