



Beverly Girard, PhD, RD, MBA, SNS will be honored by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics for Excellence in Practice Award in the area of Management Practice at FNCE 2016. Dr. Girard exemplifies a registered dietitian with innovation, creativity and leadership in management practice. She has demonstrated exceptional performance, has contributed to the advancement of management practice, and is an effective and inspiring leader. Dr. Girard is a long-time member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, SNS DPG, and currently serves on the Council on Future Practice.

Exceptional Performance in Practice

In Dr. Girard's role as Director of Food and Nutrition Services for Sarasota County Schools, Sarasota, Florida, she is a model for the profession of school nutrition director. Her operations serve over 34,000 equivalent meals each day with a focus on nutritional integrity and financial solvency. Currently the district has 30 Healthier US School Challenge Schools.

Beverly reversed a \$500,000 deficit in 1991, resulting in a \$1 million fund balance within three years of assuming the director position. Sarasota County Schools have been a pioneer in the Farm to School movement in Florida and the nation. Sarasota County Schools Food and Nutrition Services received a \$100,000 grant in 2013 for Farm to School Implementation.

Dr. Girard's Summer Food Service Program has been recognized for excellence by the Florida Department of Agriculture 2015 Above and Beyond Award and Innovations in Operations for Summer Feeding. Beverly's community partnerships with All Faiths Food Bank, Sarasota Boys and Girls Club, the YMCA, the library system, and local foundations have led to a strong summer food service program that truly serves children and families in need.

Dr. Girard is the director of the only school-district-based dietetic internship in the nation. Her excitement about a career in child nutrition management is an inspiration to future dietitians.

Beverly manages 380 employees at 50 sites. She provides vision, leadership, and strategic planning for her district foodservice department. Her favorite quote is: "*The growth and development of people is the highest calling of leadership.*" Harvey S. Firestone. She has recently presented several presentations on succession planning at national conferences including the School Nutrition Association Annual National Conference and the Biennial Conference of the Foodservice Management Education Council.

Contributions to the Achievement of Practice

Beverly has authored and co-authored more than 17 publications. Dr. Girard is an engaging, enthusiastic, and highly-rated speaker and she has presented over 25 presentations. Beverly skillfully communicates positive food and nutrition messages through media contacts. She presents an informed and well-articulated message for school nutrition professionals and the public.

Leadership achievements in nutrition-related organizations

Dr. Girard has contributed significantly to the nutrition and dietetics and school nutrition professions. She has promoted each profession to the other, building bridges between the nutrition and dietetics and school nutrition communities. Dr. Girard is currently serving the Academy through the Council on Future Practice. She recently completed service on the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Work Group for the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act. She is the Past Chair of the School Nutrition Services DPG and also served as Chair-Elect, Newsletter Editor, Treasurer, and Membership Chair.

The School Nutrition Services DPG, congratulates Dr. Beverly Girard's award from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics for Excellence in Practice in the area of Management Practice. Come join the celebration at FNCE 2016!