



**April 2021**

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

**Ashley Powell,  
PhD, RD, SNS**

*"Your opportunities will shape you, and help you be ready when the time is right."*



After 13 years as the Child Nutrition Director for Auburn City Schools in Auburn, Ala., Ashley Powell, PhD, RN, SNS, knows one thing for sure.

"It's in you what you will be," she says.

"When God has a path for you, you just take it. And so, sometimes opportunities are there, and you just need to take the opportunity."

Ashley's path to child nutrition wound around education. After earning a bachelor of science in nutrition and dietetics, she ended up getting a master's in education. In 2018, she completed a PhD in education.

[Read more about Ashley.](#)

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**Policy and Advocacy Update from Jeanne Reilly, NDTR, SNS**

**Take Action!**

**Take Action Today to Support the School Food Modernization Act**

To help ensure children have a healthy start, school nutrition professionals must have the proper kitchen equipment and technical assistance to provide students with nutritious meals. Introduced by U.S. Sens. Susan

**Announcements**



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**We are planning for next year and would value your input. Please complete this brief survey: [Planning for SY 2022](#)**

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 **Register for our webinar this Friday, "Nutrition Education for All Students: Building support for your meal program with free, accessible and science-based resources" at April 23rd from 1-2pm EST. [Register Here!](#)**

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 **Want to meet and learn from SNS DPG members?** Grab your favorite cup of Joe (or tea) and join us for one of these great Coffee Chats. We will be discussing topics based on industry, school food service, state agency, and other roles our SNS DPG members play in Child

Collins (Maine) and Tina Smith (Minn.), the bipartisan School Food Modernization Act of 2021 (S. 876) would expand schools' ability to modernize kitchen infrastructure and equipment, strengthen workforce training and support emergency preparedness for the future. By providing the tools school nutrition professionals need in order to serve healthy meals, this legislation improves food access for students and provides a means to establish life-long healthy eating habits that may lead to the prevention of diet-related diseases that have a disproportionate impact on low-income communities and communities of color.

[Take action today](#) and urge your Senators to support the bipartisan School Food Modernization Act! Please encourage your colleagues, friends and families to take action on this important issue by sharing [this link](#).

### Senate Hearing on Child Nutrition Reauthorization

On March 25, 2021, the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry held a hearing on "Child Nutrition Reauthorization: Healthy Meals and Healthy Futures". Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Ranking Member, John Boozman (R-AR) heard testimony from several witnesses, including Diane Golzynski, PhD, RDN, the Director for the Office of Health and Nutrition Services for Michigan's Department of Education and Jessica Gould, RD, SNS, the Director of Nutrition Services at Littleton Public Schools in Littleton, Colorado.

Child nutrition reauthorization occurs every five years.

However, reauthorization has not occurred since 2010 when the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act passed. It is time for Congress to pass a reauthorization that includes strong nutrition standards, healthy school meals for all, expansion of coverage for WIC and CACFP, an investment in nutrition education and promotion of local food systems. The entire hearing can be viewed [here](#).

### Stay Connected! Get Text Action Alert Updates from the Academy

To stay connected with the Academy's important action alerts and legislative updates, text "eatright" to 50457 to enroll in text alerts. You may also opt in by marking the "Send me text alerts" box whenever you take an action alert. If you previously marked this box you are already subscribed and do not need to sign up again.

### Nominate a fellow SNS DPG member as a K-12 #TrayBlazer



Brought to you by:  
 General Mills  
Convenience & Foodservice

SNS DPG members are making meals happen this year! Despite the challenges brought on by COVID-19, day after day, SNS DPG members are rising to the occasion to ensure kids are receiving tasty and nutritious meals.

Nutrition Programs. Click to register!

[State Agency Coffee Chat, Wednesday 4/21 at 3 pm EST](#)

[School Foodservice Coffee Chat, Thursday 5/13 at 5 pm EST](#)

[Child Nutrition Program Coffee Chat, Tuesday 5/18 at 2 pm EST](#)

### National Stress Awareness Month

While no food or supplement can combat stress, maintaining a nutritious eating plan and engaging in physical activity can help you manage it. During #StressAwarenessMonth, use these tips: <https://sm.eatright.org/stressmanage> #eatright

 Looking for your next opportunity in the nutrition and #dietetics profession? Search and apply for jobs on EatRight Careers! Get started: <https://sm.eatright.org/ERcareers> #eatrightPRO

### School Lunch Hero

Day is right around the corner! Recognize and celebrate your school lunch heroes on May 7th. This year, our heroes had nothing but wind beneath their capes, as they served non-stop throughout the pandemic.

### April is

#### #PreceptorMonth

During National #PreceptorMonth, volunteer your time to help impact the future of the nutrition and #dietetics profession! [Sign up to become a preceptor.](#)

The Academy offers lots of resources for preceptors, including webinars, guides and checklists! [Learn more.](#)

ACEND's Dietetics Preceptor Training Program helps preceptors prepare for and excel in their important role as teachers, coaches and mentors. [Get started.](#)

General Mills is committed to recognizing the amazing work of school nutrition professionals - who we like to call #Trayblazers – and we want to continue to do so!

To do this, we are asking you to nominate a fellow SNS DPG member for their work in school nutrition and tell us what makes them a #Trayblazer. In the upcoming issues of the Spoodle report and on the SNS DPG social media channels, #Trayblazers and their amazing work will be featured. And, both the nominee and nominator will receive a special gift from the General Mills K-12 team.

[To learn how to nominate a fellow SNS DGP member, click here.](#)

Spread the word through your own social media channels! Use the #Trayblazers hashtag and post your nomination to social. Don't forget to tag @snsdpg42 and @generalmillsK12.

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## Wrapping Up

Spring has sprung and I hope each of you were able to take some time to enjoy your spring break holiday. You have all worked tirelessly to feed and serve your students and communities during these trying times and for that I cannot thank you enough. I hope that each of you can make time to celebrate the wonderful accomplishments you and your teams have achieved over the past year and use those successes to gear up for summer meals and the new school year. Remember that you are essential, important and are doing your part to nourish millions of students and their families. We look forward to continuing to see and share the stories of our members!



Thanks!

*Stefanie Dove, MBA RDN SNS*

Stefanie Dove, MBA RDN SNS  
Chair, SNS DPG

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