



## March 2021

### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## Lauren Thomas, RDN

*If the driving force behind Lauren Thomas, RDN, could be summed up in one word, that word would be connect.*



If the driving force behind Lauren Thomas, RDN, could be summed up in one word, that word would be connect. Whether she's building personal connections with students, establishing relationships with farmers and businesses in her community, or connecting the dots for parents struggling to maintain healthy lifestyles during the pandemic, connectedness drives Lauren's passion for dietetics.

And what better way to connect than through school nutrition?

"School food across the country is now front and center and spotlighted, which I think is amazing," Lauren says. "Why aren't we highlighting school food? The amount of local businesses and farmers that we can support because we're feeding so many kids is amazing."

[Read more about Lauren.](#)

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### Legislative Update

For this month's full report, [please click here](#).

### Take Action!

During the annual appropriations process, the Academy advocates for funding for federal programs that help people live a healthy life. Members of Congress need to hear from Academy members on these important issues

### Announcements



#### SNS Executive Committee Election Results are In!

Meet your Newly Elected Leaders:

**Chair-Elect:** Sandy Curwood, PhD, RDN



*Nutrition professionals contribute significantly to School and Child Nutrition Programs and even more markedly during the pandemic with the opportunities for new innovations, promising practices, and partnerships. Looking forward to serving our SNS practice group!*

**Treasurer:** Meghan Martinson, MS, RD, LD

that impact our profession and communities – [take action now!](#)

### Affinity Groups

This month the Academy will begin assembling affinity groups composed of policy leaders and members who expressed interest in Academy policy priority areas by filling out the [Member Policy Interest Survey](#).

### Big News!

To help our members advocate for child nutrition, we are creating an Advocacy Toolbox to help provide you with ideas, tips & guidance as you advocate for School Meals on a local, state & federal level! All resources will be available on our website in the Resource Library.

### Federal Nutrition Impact Story Collection Open

The Academy wants to hear from you! The Academy continues to collect federal nutrition stories to assist in advocacy efforts for FY2022 federal budget requests. Please complete the [story collection form here](#).

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### Nominate a fellow SNS DPG Member as a K-12 #Trayblazer!



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. 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 is in the air! March is filled with celebrations and activities from National Nutrition Month and Women's History Month to Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Day. It is a great time to share our passion for nutrition and to



*It is an honor to be chosen for a leadership position within the School Nutrition Services Dietetic Practice Group! I am looking forward to growing professionally through this service opportunity and building collaborative relationships through my new role in this community to continue to advance and influence nutrition initiatives in our schools.*

#### Nominating Committee:

Shannon Ebron, MS, RD



*Thank you for electing me to the SNSDPG42 Nominating Committee. I am honored to serve among dedicated school nutrition professionals working hard to provide children nutritious meals everyday.*

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Frozen foods are an affordable, convenient way to get your daily dose of fruits and vegetables! Frozen fruits and vegetables are also a great way to send a bulk amount of produce home with your students for Spring Break. Use [these tips](#) to select nutritious varieties and store them safely at home. #NationalNutritionMonth

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If you don't have time to whip up a homemade meal, you can still enjoy the benefits of a family dinner! Here are [some ideas](#) to prepare nutritious, quick meals at home. #eatright #kidseatright #NationalNutritionMonth

promote healthy school meals. We would love to see your celebrations going on this month! Make sure to tag us in social media so we can help share the great things our members are doing! We have lots of exciting events coming up from culinary demos and webinars to our NEW student coffee chats. Make sure you check out the events and feel free to reach out for more information or questions on how you can get involved with the DPG. Thank you for all that you do to feed the future.



Thanks!

*Stefanie Dove, MBA RDN SNS*

Stefanie Dove, MBA RDN SNS  
Chair, SNS DPG

## SNS Leadership

Stefanie Dove, RDN, SNS  
Chair, 2020-2021

[Stefanie.Dove@Kellogg.com](mailto:Stefanie.Dove@Kellogg.com)

Jocelyn Karbo, MBA, RDN  
Chair-Elect, 2020-2021

[Jkarbo@esc11.net](mailto:Jkarbo@esc11.net)

Linette Dodson, PhD, RD, LD, SNS, FAND  
Past Chair, 2020-2021

[dodsonlinette@gmail.com](mailto:dodsonlinette@gmail.com)



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