



September 2020

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Danielle DiCristofano

Danielle DiCristofano, Registered Dietitian for Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center (JTDC) in Chicago, Illinois helps us learn about this unique sector of child nutrition.



Danielle DiCristofano is the Registered Dietitian for Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center (JTDC) in Chicago, Illinois. The center's goal is to provide the kids with a "safe, secure, and caring environment with programs and structure that enhance personal development and improve opportunity for success upon return to the community" (www.cookcountyil.gov). The nutrition program at Cook County Juvenile Detention Center operates under the National School Lunch Program. When asked what her biggest challenge is at work, Danielle explains the extra layer of difficulty that she faces because all decisions she makes can impact the safety of the kids. Although uniquely challenging, Danielle's job is incredibly rewarding. Danielle shared how happy it makes her just to walk through the halls of the center.

"I love walking through the hallways and seeing the kids run up to their windows, excited to share with me their feedback on menu items or ask nutrition questions. When you're locked up, food is sometimes what you look forward to all day. The kids get excited about food and that makes me happy that I can make their lives a little better."

Learn more about the unique challenges of being a dietitian in the juvenile justice system and the life-changing project that Danielle has lined up for her youth at Cook County JTDC in [this month's Member Spotlight](#).

Want to learn more about this month's spotlight subject? We have Arminda Kovalchik joining us in

Announcements



 **Student Virtual Coffee Chat!** Students - we invite you to [sign up for a virtual coffee chat](#) with an SNS DPG member. We will pair you with a professional in your field of interest. Network, ask questions, or just enjoy a nice cup of joe with a fellow member.

 **Don't forget to register for FNCE® 2020!** Standard pricing ends on September 30, 2020. [Register Here](#)

 **School Nutrition Services Executive Committee Nominations are Open!**

The SNS Nominating Committee is currently seeking nominees for the 2021-2022 Executive Committee. Elections will be held in February 2021 coinciding with Academy elections. Those elected take office on June 1, 2021.

an upcoming newsletter to share her experience in the juvenile justice system. To learn more about being an RD in corrections and to network with those in the field, join their new [LinkedIn Group](#).

Policy & Advocacy News

Exciting News!

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has extended several [critical waivers](#) through December 31, 2020. These extensions allow schools across the country to offer free school meals to all children through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or through Seamless Summer Option (SSO) in all areas.

While these extensions are a step in the right direction, Academy members working in schools indicate that these extensions must be provided for the entire school year to ensure children will have access to healthy meals while keeping frontline workers safe. It is particularly important to give school nutrition professionals, producers, and industry enough time to properly plan and execute school nutrition service in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and variable learning environments.

Please [take action today](#) and urge USDA to extend waivers that will ensure children have access to healthy meals throughout the entire 2020-21 school year.

Respectfully,

Jeanne Reilly, NDTR, SNS
SNS DPG Policy & Advocacy Leader

Wrapping Up

Hello and Happy Fall! I hope you are settling into the new school year and even with all of the changes coming your way on a daily basis, I know you are conquering each task at hand with resilience like you have been doing all year. Our Executive Committee is busy planning professional development and networking opportunities for our members this year. If you have a topic that you would like to see the DPG highlight this year, let us know! In other exciting news, FNCE® is less than a month away! Please make sure to Save the Date for our virtual networking event being held on **Wednesday, October 21 at 3 pm EST**, and stop by and see us at the virtual DPG/MIG Showcase on **Monday, October 19 from 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm EST in the Expo Hall**. I am looking forward to seeing you there!

Thanks!

Stefania Dove, MBA RDN SNS

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Chair, SNS DPG

Available positions include:

- Chair-Elect (3-year commitment)
- Treasurer (2-year commitment)
- Nominations Committee Member (2-year commitment)

🔗 Click [here](#) to learn more about each position.

If you are interested in an elected position or nominating someone else, [please complete this form](#) by **October 1st** and a member of the Nominating Committee will follow up with you.

Mark your Calendar:

Interested in how school nutrition has impacted your students and community this year? Join the SNS DPG during the Membership Showcase to learn more about how you can be involved with the DPG and feeding the future. **Monday, October 19, 12:30-2:30**

Looking for ways to earn #RDNCPE at home? The Academy offers a variety of convenient, recorded webinars! [Learn more here!](#) #eatrightPRO

September is National Food Safety Month!

Education for the day: some foods should always be washed, but others should be kept far away from the sink. [Review these #foodsafety guidelines](#) to learn more. #eatright #foodsafety



US-grown mushrooms are **sustainably produced** by farmers right in your communities (often locally!), and a nutritious, fun addition to your **Farm to School menus**.

Visit MushroomsInSchools.com to get a jump start on your #F2SMonth plans for October with:

- Recipes
- Food Literacy Lessons
- Sourcing Guidance
- And More!



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