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## September 2018 Newsletter



### Member Spotlight: Explore the Field and Forge Your Own Path Along the Way

One of the many appealing aspects of school nutrition is the abundance of diverse career paths, all of which contribute to making a lasting impact on children's health and access to nutritious foods. School nutrition offers the opportunity to gain a variety of experiences and growth through different roles in our field. There is even the opportunity to create your own job in school nutrition. This school year is a very new year for our spotlight member of the month, **Stephanie Simms Hodges, MS, RDN**, because she is officially her own boss, starting an exciting new business that will provide support to schools across the country.

**Member Spotlight Article Continued**

### Vote on Our Newsletter Name!



Thanks to the SNS members who submitted ideas - now it's time to vote! Click on your favorite newsletter name below to cast your vote:

[The Lunch Tray](#)

[School Scoops](#)

[SNS News You Can Use](#)

[The Cafeteria Chronicle](#)

[The Spoodle Report](#)

### Announcements



Join us for our October webinar: *What the 2018 School Nutrition Services Position Practice Papers Can Do for You!*

Thursday, October 4, 2018  
2:30 pm CDT | 1 hr 30 mins

[Register Here](#)

### Nominations and Awards Now Open!

If you are interested in an elected position or nominating yourself or someone else for an award, [please complete the Google form](#) by October 19th and a member of the committee will follow up with you.

school nutrition programs including grant writing and implementation, training, menu compliance, wellness policy consulting, nutrition education programming, and marketing and social media consulting. Stephanie began her career as an AmeriCorps VISTA, assisting a non-profit in their implementation of school based programs that focused on healthy eating and physical activity. She has also held positions with Share Our Strength and the Department of Education.

Thinking about starting your own business? Stephanie shared with us the hopes and fears that come with being an entrepreneur.

“After seeing the opportunities within the field of school nutrition through previous positions and speaking with individuals within the field, I decided to take a leap of faith and start my own business. My goal is to be a resource for anyone involved in child nutrition programs and ensure that each child is well nourished. I not only work with school nutrition directors, but I assist non-profits, government agencies, and the private sector to develop and implement programs and policies to support children’s health inside and outside the school environment. With every new endeavor there is a fear that you won’t be successful or you won’t meet your goals but hard work, passion, experience, and knowledge allows you to overcome that fear. I also have an INCREDIBLE support system of family, friends, and colleagues which is invaluable!

Ten years from now, I hope that The Nourished Principles is assisting child nutrition programs across the country (maybe even the world?!) to empower children to make healthy choices and to ensure each child nutrition program is as successful as they can be.”

[Learn more about Stephanie Simms Hodges and The Nourished Principles!](#)

### New SNS DPG Mentorship Program

Stephanie plans to expand her network and learn from other entrepreneur dietitians by participating in the new SNS DPG Mentorship Program. The mentorship program is a new and exciting opportunity for students and professionals to connect, learn, exchange ideas, and grow as leaders in the field. Sign up to be a mentor or mentee by October 15th!

[Mentor Application](#)

[Mentee Application](#)

### in Washington, DC at FNCE®!

Enjoy light appetizers and a cash bar while mingling with your fellow school nutrition colleagues. [Registration ends September 30th.](#)

Can’t make it to the networking event? Come visit the SNS DPG Membership Showcase at booth 2940 at FNCE® on Monday, October, 22nd. Take a selfie, swap business cards, or simply say hello and introduce yourself!

### Cool Tool



#### FNCE® App

Going to FNCE® in Washington, DC? There’s an app for that! FNCE® offers a free app to view session information, create your own personalized schedule, view the expo floor, and take notes. This app is especially helpful for tracking sessions attended and CPEUs earned. [Click here to download it before the conference!](#)

### SNS Leadership



Jill Williams, MPH, RD  
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Cindy K. Culver, MS, RDN, LD  
Past Chair, 2018-2019

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## Legislative Update

With FNCE® and the Public Policy Workshop right around the corner, trainings and pre-conference webinars are in full gear, making sure that all attendees are ready to head to Capitol Hill to talk to our Senators & Representatives about Nutrition Policy. This year's PPW focus is Malnutrition, and School Nutrition definitely makes a huge impact in combating childhood malnutrition by providing healthy school meals to our nation's children...

### Legislative Update Continued

Are you attending the Public Policy Workshop? Make sure you are prepared to talk about how your school nutrition program provides nutritious school meals for kids throughout the school year and even in the summer!

In other news, USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue hosted a roundtable discussion

to learn more about how USDA can best assist and enable schools to serve nutritious meals to our nation's children.

The Secretary's roundtable was held in advance of the publication of the final rule on Child Nutrition Programs: Flexibilities for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Requirements, targeted for release later this year. The [interim final rule](#) published in November 2017 gave schools flexibilities for the milk, sodium, and whole grain requirements for school year 2018-2019.

"We are looking ahead for more ways to help local operators run world-class school meal programs," said Perdue. The Secretary added that increasing program efficiency and accountability is a priority for USDA, as it makes the best use of taxpayer dollars.

USDA Acting Deputy Undersecretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services Brandon Lipps expects to meet with more school meals partners through the remainder of the year. USDA encourages feedback and seeks to provide the tools and flexibilities school meal programs need to improve customer service. Be sure that you are contacting USDA and your state representatives to advocate for healthy school meals.

Jeanne Reilly, NDTR, SNS  
SNS DPG Policy Chair

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## Wrapping Up

Hello and Happy Fall!

your school year. We had some excitement this month with our very first “Social Media Takeover”! Many thanks to Amanda Kruse from Indianapolis Public Schools Foodservice for doing such an amazing job showcasing your program on the SNS DPGs Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts. Please make sure that you follow the School Nutrition Services Dietetic Practice Group on social media so you do not miss out on future takeovers.



In other exciting news, FNCE® is less than a month away! Please [make sure to register for our SNS DPG networking event on Saturday, October 20th](#), and stop by and see us at the DPG/MIG Showcase on Monday, October 22nd from 9-12 in the Expo Hall. I cannot wait to see everyone there!

Healthy Regards,

Jill Williams, MPH, RDN

Chair, 2018-19



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