



Boise Schools Food Service Professional Named Regional Employee of the Year

(National Harbor, MD – May 1, 2018) – The national, non-profit School Nutrition Association (SNA) has named Marlene Toothaker from Boise School District, ID, the Northwest regional *Employee of the Year*. The award recognizes the valuable contribution of school nutrition employees who exhibit a remarkable commitment to the school meal program and the students they serve.

For 24 years, Marlene Toothaker has been dedicated to providing students with high quality, nutritious school meals. She currently works at Horizon Elementary and Morley Nelson Elementary schools and has implemented a unique marketing campaign for the schools' Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. Creating high quality laminated tags for the baskets of produce that go to classrooms at snack time, Toothaker has provided information and fun facts to help students learn more about their fresh fruits and vegetables.

Toothaker works tirelessly to create a positive environment for her students and her coworkers. She has created signs to help lunch time go more smoothly. Nothing goes unnoticed, including her coworkers' birthdays, which she always manages to remember. Staff members say Toothaker greets students every day with one of the biggest smiles. Early in her career, Toothaker won the "Red Apron Award," in part due to creating impressive and highly informative cafeteria bulletin boards along with menu boards and dressing up to celebrate holidays.

"Marlene Toothaker loves her work and it is clear that she takes great pride in her program," said SNA President Lynn Harvey, EdD, RDN, SNS. "She is the quintessential example of what a school nutrition professional should be."

As an active member of the Idaho School Nutrition Association for the past 11 years, Toothaker always strives to improve herself by attending local conferences, which she often pays for herself. She shares creative ideas and best practices with colleagues and is committed to her school nutrition team. Another Idaho school foodservice professional being recognized for her dedication to school nutrition is Kitchen Manager Jerrilynn Hernandez, from Joint School District 171, who was named by SNA as this year's 2018 Manager of the Year.

"Our State Board is so proud of our two winners," said Idaho School Nutrition Association President Peggy Bodnar. "There were many fantastic nominees in the state,

making our decision to choose Marlene and Jerrilyn very difficult. We are so happy they are being recognized in the region and in the nation for their commitment to the students in their districts. Their dedication to the field of child nutrition is commendable and motivational to others in the profession.”

The *Employee of the Year Award* was created to recognize outstanding school nutrition employees who influence the quality of school meals through customer service, an interest in young people, cooperation, work attendance, creativity, participation in professional development and their willingness to go above and beyond.

In July, Toothaker will be honored during the Red Carpet Awards Ceremony at the School Nutrition Association’s Annual National Conference held in Las Vegas, Nevada.

About School Nutrition Association:

The School Nutrition Association (SNA) is a national, non-profit professional organization representing 57,000 school nutrition professionals across the country. Founded in 1946, SNA and its members are dedicated to making healthy school meals and nutrition education available to all students. For more information on school meals, visit www.SchoolNutrition.org/SchoolMeals.