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## **BASIC AMERICAN FOODS 34th ANNUAL FAME AWARDS WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

**Walnut Creek, Ca.—November 2, 2022—** Basic American Foods is proud to announce the 2023 Foodservice Achievement Management Excellence (FAME) Awards winners.

The FAME Awards' most prestigious honor, the **Golden Foodservice Director of the Year Award**, is presented to Jessica Shelly, Director of Student Dining Services, Cincinnati Public Schools, Cincinnati, Ohio. Jessica creates a dining experience for the students she serves and is known for her ability to “not just serve school lunch, but to serve lunch at school.” By empowering choice and offering options, Jessica increased high school lunch participation from 48% to 76%.

**The 2023 FAME Silver Leadership Award** winner is Christine Clarahan, Director of Food and Nutrition Services, School City of Hammond, Hammond, Indiana. Christine's strength is growing others into leaders. She was the first to implement a comprehensive leadership training program for all staff, which no other district 'non-curricular' department had ever done. With her six years as the director, Christine passionately values her staff and works hard to ensure fair compensation for all.

Lauren Koff, Dietician for Houston County Schools, Perry, Georgia, is the **2023 FAME Silver Spirit Award** winner. For the last ten years Lauren has far exceeded the original scope of her position. Whether it's developing a local food show, training others in growing their careers, obtaining grant money, or bringing CEP to over half of the schools in the district, Lauren is invested in all parts of her school foodservice program. She is well respected beyond her Houston County family and is regularly requested to speak at conferences.

The **2023 FAME Rising Star Award** winner is Melanie Romano, School Nutrition Director, Alliance Charter Schools, Charlotte, North Carolina. With just two years of experience, Melanie has successfully transitioned Alliance from a vended, catered contract to a delicious, self-prep program offering multiple nutritious entrees daily, thus establishing much high meal participation and satisfaction. This change increased breakfast participation in one of the Alliance schools from 106% to 274%.

For over 30 years, the FAME Awards have recognized outstanding heroes in K-12 foodservice who raise industry standards by making a difference within their school districts and communities.

The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual FAME Awards ceremony will be held live and in person during the School Nutrition Conference on January 15<sup>th</sup>. For more information, visit [FAME Awards](#).

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