

SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION OF NORTH CAROLINA



*Cultivate a
Legacy of Leadership*



SNA-NC 2025-2026

2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Official Program

JUNE 22-25, 2026

KOURY CONVENTION CENTER | GREENSBORO

Designed by SEA Level Social

Welcome

to the 2026 SNA of NC Annual Conference!

It is my sincere pleasure to welcome you as we come together to celebrate at our annual state conference. I encourage you to make the most of this event and embrace every opportunity for personal and professional growth. Imer Smith, Jamie Narron, and our fabulous steering committee have put together an outstanding conference experience for us this year. We have exciting new surprises, engaging sessions, and a great fun night planned for everyone to enjoy.

Thank you for allowing me the honor of serving as your President this year. It has been a truly rewarding journey. As we gather once again, I invite each of you to cultivate your own legacy of leadership and continue making a positive impact in School Nutrition.

Tammy Rinehart

SNA of NC President 2025-2026



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SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION OF NORTH CAROLINA

Past Presidents

Rosa Spearman	1950-1951	Mary Long Beasley	1991-1992
R. K. Whitehall	1951-1952	Marva Brown	1992-1993
Dr. Bertlyn Bosley	1952-1953	Jan Holt	1993-1994
Elizabeth Silver/Annabelle Selph	1953-1954	Dorothy Kirby	1994-1995
Annabelle Selph	1954-1955	Nancy Kennon	1995-1996
Christine Herring	1955-1956	Maryann Cusack	1996-1997
Ralph Eaton	1956-1957	Cynthia Sevier	1997-1998
Evelyn Whitt	1957-1958	Elizabeth Taylor	1998-1999
Evelyn Whitt	1958-1959	Elaine Hunt	1999-2000
Frances Farrell	1959-1960	Janice Ezzell	2000-2001
Sabra Reid	1960-1961	Sandy Midgett	2001-2002
Elnor Cowan	1961-1962	Esther Lassiter	2002-2003
Ruth Hart	1962-1963	Gretchen Wilson	2003-2004
Kathryn Woodard	1963-1964	Cindy Marion	2004-2005
Evelyn James	1964-1965	Sherry Williams	2005-2006
Helen Eshelman	1965-1966	Marilyn Moody	2006-2007
Margie Chaney	1966-1967	Kathy Buelin Caudle	2007-2008
Irma Hudson	1967-1968	Beth Palien	2008-2009
Ruth Baker	1968-1969	Deborah Davis Carpenter	2009-2010
Ralph Eaton	1969-1970	Lois Hood	2010-2011
Irene Wilson	1970-1971	Daughn Baker	2011-2012
Geneva Hilton	1971-1972	Pamela Smith	2012-2013
Louise Compton	1972-1973	Reginald Ross	2013-2014
Louise Moore	1973-1974	Brittany Yokeley	2014-2015
Elizabeth McPherson	1974-1975	Alison Francis	2015-2016
Ruth Robertson	1975-1976	Sharon Kinion	2016-2017
Frances Parker	1976-1977	Shirley Pelletier	2017-2018
Carolyn Coble	1977-1978	Amy Stanley	2018-2019
Mary Dillard	1978-1979	Frederick R. Gilbert	2019-2020
Rebecca Smith	1979-1980	Kristen Bealler	2020-2021
Sue Ingle	1988-1989	Dana Edwards	2021-2022
Margie Fink	1989-1990	Ruth McDowell	2022-2023
Sharon Mehaffey	1990-1991	Janet Johnson	2023-2024
		Stephanie Hall	2024-2025

Congratulations

to this year's School Nutrition Association of North Carolina State Winners!

These school food service professionals were nominated by peers in their respective categories for the School Nutrition Association (SNA) national awards program.



DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

Amy Stanley

NEW HANOVER COUNTY SCHOOLS



MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Nancy Mintz

LINCOLN ELEMENTARY
BRUNSWICK COUNTY SCHOOLS

General Information

Badges: Badges must be worn at all times to access the New Horizon Trade Show and SNA of NC Annual Conference events, including the Culinary Arts/Creative Arts registration. Please wear your badge to all meetings and social functions. The only exception is the Thursday evening banquet, where a ticket is sufficient for entry. Badge holder recycling boxes will be available at the Registration table and at the banquet. Please return your badge holder at the end of the conference.

Cell Phones: To maintain a professional environment and respect for program participants, please silence all devices during sessions.

Certificates: Stop by the registration booth on Wednesday, June 24, during registration hours to pick up your certificates, including 100% Membership, 100% Certification, and any other awards.

Continuing Education Documentation: A list of all sessions with school nutrition learning topic codes is included at the end of this program to help track professional standards continuing education and SNA CEUs.

Country Stores: Support your local chapters by visiting the Country Stores located in the Oak Room.

Dining: Dining information provided by the Greensboro Convention and Visitors Bureau is available at the registration booth. Options include hotel and convention center restaurants, nearby mall eateries, and other local dining destinations.

Endowment Raffle: Due to last year's success, the raffle format remains the same. Proceeds from the SNA-NC Raffle support training and educational opportunities for all members. Visit the Maple Room in the Koury Convention Center to secure your chance to win unique items donated from across the state.

Calendar of Events

MONDAY, JUNE 22

- 12:00PM-4:00PM** **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**
COLONY B,C
- 12:30PM-1:00PM** **CHECK IN - PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP: NEW SCHOOL NUTRITION MANAGER**
VICTORIA A
- 12:30PM-1:00PM** **CHECK IN - PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP: THE ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW PROCESS-AN APPROACH TO COLLABORATIVE COMPLIANCE**
GRAND BALLROOM
- 1:00PM-5:00PM** **PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP: NEW SCHOOL NUTRITION MANAGER**
VICTORIA A
- 1:00PM-5:00PM** **PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP: THE ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW PROCESS-AN APPROACH TO COLLABORATIVE COMPLIANCE**
GRAND BALLROOM

TUESDAY, JUNE 23

- 8:00AM-4:00PM** **REGISTRATION**
GUILFORD PREFUNCTION AREA I
- 8:30AM-9:00AM** **CHECK IN - PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP: NEW SCHOOL NUTRITION MANAGER**
VICTORIA A
- 8:30AM-9:00AM** **CHECK IN - PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP: THE ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW PROCESS-AN APPROACH TO COLLABORATIVE COMPLIANCE**
GRAND BALLROOM

Calendar of Events

TUESDAY, JUNE 23

- 8:30AM-9:00AM** **CHECK IN - PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP:
SAFE PLATES CRISIS COMMUNICATION**
VICTORIA B/C
- 9:00AM-4:00PM** **PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP: NEW SCHOOL
NUTRITION MANAGER**
VICTORIA A
- 9:00AM-4:00PM** **PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP: THE
ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW PROCESS-AN
APPROACH TO COLLABORATIVE COMPLIANCE**
GRAND BALLROOM
- 9:00AM-4:00PM** **PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP: SAFE PLATES
CRISIS COMMUNICATION**
VICTORIA B/C
- 10:00AM-3:00PM** **CULINARY & CREATIVE ARTS:
CHECK IN & SET UP**
COLONY
- 1:30PM-3:30PM** **CHAPTER LEADERSHIP SEMINAR**
PRESIDENT-ELECT: IMER SMITH &
VICE-PRESIDENT: JAMIE NARRON
CEDAR
- 2:30PM-4:30PM** **NCDA FARM TO SCHOOL CALENDAR DISTRIBUTION**
CAROLINA
- 2:30PM-3:00PM** **CULINARY & CREATIVE ARTS JUDGES MEETING**
COLONY
- 3:00PM-4:00PM** **CULINARY & CREATIVE ARTS JUDGING**
COLONY

Calendar of Events

TUESDAY, JUNE 23

- 4:00PM-4:45PM** **CULINARY & CREATIVE ARTS RECEPTION**
COLONY
- 4:45PM-5:00PM** **CULINARY & CREATIVE ARTS VIEWING
(PARTICIPANTS ONLY)**
COLONY
- 5:00PM-6:00PM** **CULINARY & CREATIVE ARTS VIEWING**
COLONY
- 6:00PM-6:30PM** **CULINARY & CREATIVE ARTS BREAKDOWN**
COLONY

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

- 6:30AM-7:00AM** **WALKING WITH FRIENDS**
PRESIDENT: TAMMY RINEHART
THIRD FLOOR AT TOP OF SPIRAL STAIRCASE
- 7:30AM-2:00PM** **REGISTRATION**
GUILFORD PREFUNCTION AREA I
- 7:30AM-9:00AM** **ENDOWMENT RAFFLE RECEIVING**
MAPLE
ITEMS CAN BE LEFT AT FRONT DESK IF MAPLE ROOM IS NOT OPEN
- 7:15AM-10:30AM** **TRANSFORM YOUR RECIPES FOR A HEALTHIER YOU**
OFFSITE: UNCG FOOD LAB
*TICKET REQUIRED, PICK UP PRE-REGISTERED TICKET AT REGISTRATION
DESK. DRESS IN APPROPRIATE KITCHEN WORK ATTIRE. SLIP-RESISTANT
SHOES AND HAIR RESTRAINT ARE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE.
MEET UNDER THE PORTICO AT ENTRY F AT 7:15AM.*


Calendar of Events

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

- 8:00AM-8:30AM** **FIRST TIMERS SESSION**
PRESIDENT-ELECT: IMER SMITH
VICE-PRESIDENT: JAMIE NARRON
AUDITORIUM II
- 8:45AM-9:00AM** **NEW HORIZON TRADE SHOW RIBBON CUTTING**
GUILFORD BALLROOM
- 9:00AM-9:45AM** **FORECAST THE FUTURE WITH PRODUCTION RECORDS**
NCDPI OFFICE OF SCHOOL NUTRITION
AUDITORIUM II
- 9:00AM-12:00PM** **NEW HORIZON TRADE SHOW**
BUYER'S MORNING FOR DIRECTORS/SUPERVISORS
GUILFORD BALLROOM
- 9:00AM-2:00PM** **VOTING**
CONVENTION DESK I
- 9:00AM-2:00PM** **NCDA FARM TO SCHOOL CALENDAR DISTRIBUTION**
CAROLINA
- 9:00AM-2:00PM** **COUNTRY STORES**
OAK
- 9:00AM-2:00PM** **ENDOWMENT RAFFLE VIEWING**
MAPLE
- 10:00AM-10:45AM** **COOLING LOG CONUNDRUM- WHY, WHEN, AND
HOW TO COOL CORRECTLY**
AUDITORIUM II
- 11:00AM-12:00PM** **NEW HORIZON TRADE SHOW
MANAGER/ASSISTANT MANAGERS**
GUILFORD BALLROOM
- 12:00PM-2:00M** **FREE 10 MINUTE CHAIR MASSAGE**
OUTSIDE GUILFORD BALLROOM

Calendar of Events

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

- 12:00PM-2:00PM** **NEW HORIZON TRADE SHOW
OPEN TO ALL**
GUILFORD BALLROOM
- 12:45PM-1:00PM** **DELEGATE ASSEMBLY CHECK IN**
AUDITORIUM I
- 1:00PM-2:00PM** **DELEGATE ASSEMBLY**
AUDITORIUM I
- 2:00PM-2:30PM** **CULINARY & CREATIVE ART WINNERS**
IMPERIAL BALLROOM
- 2:30PM-5:00PM** **FIRST GENERAL SESSION**
IMPERIAL BALLROOM
PLEASE SEE PAGE 23 FOR AN OVERVIEW
- 7:00PM-9:30PM** **FUN NIGHT**
SPONSORED BY:  **NO KID HUNGRY**
IMPERIAL BALLROOM

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

- 7:00AM-7:30AM** **REGISTRATION**
GUILFORD PREFUNCTION AREA I
- 8:00AM-9:45AM** **SECOND GENERAL SESSION**
IMPERIAL BALLROOM
PLEASE SEE PAGE 23 FOR AN OVERVIEW
- 10:00AM-11:00AM** **EDUCATION SESSION 1**
- 10:00AM-1:00PM** **VOTING**
CONVENTION DESK I
- 10:00AM-1:00PM** **NCDA FARM TO SCHOOL CALENDAR DISTRIBUTION**
CAROLINA

Calendar of Events

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

- 10:00AM-1:00PM** **ENDOWMENT RAFFLE VIEWING**
MAPLE
- 10:00AM-3:00PM** **COUNTRY STORES**
OAK
- 11:15AM-12:15PM** **EDUCATION SESSION 2**
- 12:15PM-1:30PM** **PRESIDENT LUNCHEON**
BLUE ASH
TICKET REQUIRED
- 12:15PM-1:45PM** **LUNCH ON YOUR OWN**
- 1:45PM-2:45PM** **EDUCATION SESSION 3**
- 3:00PM-4:00PM** **EDUCATION SESSION 4**
- 4:15PM-4:45PM** **ENDOWMENT RAFFLE DRAWING**
- 6:30PM-8:00PM** **AWARDS BANQUET & NIGHT OF ENTERTAINMENT**
PLEASE SEE PAGE 22 FOR AN OVERVIEW

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

- 8:30AM-10:30AM** **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**
COLONY B,C

THANK YOU TO OUR *Platinum Sponsors*



Keynote Speaker

JANE JENKINS HERLONG



Get ready to laugh, learn, and be inspired with Jane Jenkins Herlong! A nationally recognized speaker, author, and humorist, Jane combines Southern storytelling, humor, and real-life experiences to deliver unforgettable messages that encourage growth, resilience, and joy.

Walking with Friends

Start your day with fresh air, movement, and great conversation! Join fellow attendees for a casual morning walk and enjoy the opportunity to connect with friends—old and new—before the day's events begin.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

6:30 AM – 7:00 AM

MEET AT THE TOP OF THE SPIRAL STAIRCASE ON THE 3RD FLOOR

THANK YOU TO OUR *gold sponsors*



Education Sessions

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

Session 1: 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

Session 2: 11:15AM-12:15PM

Session 3: 1:45PM-2:45PM

Session 4: 3:00PM-4:00PM

SESSION 1

ABC's Of Processing

Lisa Shoaf, Eligibility & Procurement Specialist, Davidson County Schools, Tysha Sherard & Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Service Food Distribution Division

Come join your NCDA&CS team as we talk about what commodity processing is all about—from the bidding process to the product on the plate. Learn how items are accounted for and where the funding comes from.

Auditorium I

Creating a Legacy Via Your Cafeteria Upgrade

Kneeland Wright, SOS/Palmer Hamilton

A PowerPoint presentation with before-and-after photos of cafeteria and serving area upgrades, including art, paint, and furniture. Learn how the process works, how to purchase, and have time for Q&A.

Auditorium II

The Voice of School Nutrition

Dr. Ashley Powell, RD, SNS, FAND, SNA President-Elect (Director, Auburn City Schools)

You are the voice of School Nutrition! Join us as we discuss how your stories, experiences, and membership with the School Nutrition Association creates a voice that reaches our students and communities!

Auditorium III

Let Us Play – Cultivate a Legacy of Leadership

Lisa Caughman, MSc, HHP, CAPP, Founder, Lee Lees Life Lessons

Continuing Lisa's Let Us Play series, this session introduces Positive Psychology pathways through play, reflection, and purpose. Participants leave with practical, heart-centered tools for their Rose Garden toolbox—resources designed to strengthen resilience, deepen connection, and support leadership that grows and endures.

Auditorium IV

Education Sessions

Coach or Manager – Which Are You?

Marilyn Moody, The Culinary Coach, Consultant

A manager is a title; it does not guarantee success. Coaching is an action, not a title, and actions result in successes! This session helps you identify the manager and coaching styles you exhibit and offers ways to improve your leadership abilities.

Cedar

Make It, Take It!

Jessica Obrochta, SNS, Assistant School Nutrition Director, Brunswick County Schools, SNA-NC Nutrition Chair and Committee

National School Lunch Week 2026 is a time to celebrate nutritious meals and the hardworking staff who make them possible. This class provides creative ideas for promoting the week, including fun activities, engaging themes, and marketing tips to excite students, staff, and the community. Learn how to make this week memorable while highlighting the importance of healthy eating in schools.

Colony

True Leadership: Lollipop Moments

Tiffany Lawrence, Senior Director of School Nutrition, Wake County Public Schools

True leadership is not a title; it is the daily choice to influence, inspire, and guide others through "lollipop moments" that make someone else's life better. This session explores how every staff member plays a vital role in building trust, ownership, and morale, and how to lead from exactly where you stand to create a lasting impact on your team and students.

Victoria A

Master the Menu You Have – Commercial Equipment Skills

Christie White, Founder/Owner, What's 4 Lunch

For anyone working in or managing a school kitchen, this session focuses on mastering the commercial equipment you already have—convection, steam, combi, and holding units. Learn how equipment settings, timing, and workflow impact food quality, consistency, efficiency, and staff confidence. Participants leave with skills to reduce errors, streamline service, and consistently execute menus while building a strong foundation for future program success.

Pebble Beach

Education Sessions

SESSION 2

Let's Talk Farm-to-School

Walter Beal, Division Director, NC Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Service, Food Distribution Division

Learn how the NC Department of Agriculture (NCDA) can support Farm to School by connecting your school with local farmers and fresh, seasonal produce. Resources and guidance are shared to help school nutrition teams bring healthy, locally sourced meals to students.

Auditorium I

Capturing Culinary Legacies: Food Photography for Cafeteria Staff

Lizzie Vetsch, Association Account Manager & Arianne Branch, VP of Strategy & Content, Co-Founder, SEA Level Social

You can capture stunning photos of your school nutrition program using just your smartphone, no fancy lighting or editing required! This webinar offers simple tips on what to photograph and how to showcase your program in the best light, helping you create engaging content with ease.

Auditorium II

Borrowed Courage: How Mentors + Moments Changed Us

Gretchen Wilson, SNS, Director, Pitt County Schools & Tracie Samp, SNS, Lakeside/Multiteria Manufacturin

Join us for a session designed to inspire your career in school nutrition and show the opportunities available through our professional organization. We'll share personal stories about leadership, including how Gretchen moved from operations to SNA leadership as President and ultimately transitioned into the industry. Participants will leave with practical insights, encouragement, and a vision for their own growth.

Auditorium III

Charlotte: Ready or Not Here We Come!

Fred Gilbert, SNS, CMS Supervisor & Melanie Dattero, SNS, Director of School Support Services, Wake County Public Schools

This class highlights the Annual School Nutrition Conference happening in Charlotte—the first time it's hosted locally! Learn about volunteer opportunities, what those roles look like, and how to share excitement and energy with members nationwide.

Cedar

Hear More About Sweet Tea Wisdom & Southern-Fried Humor

Jane Jenkins-Herlong

Auditorium IV

Education Sessions

Planning for the Future of School Food

Linden Thayer, Principal/Research Scholar, Maya Systems Design/SchoolCAMP at NC State University

Explore opportunities to support student, staff, and environmental health through farm-to-school, scratch cooking, student leadership, family engagement, staff meals, recycling, plant-forward menus, and more. Find resources to turn passion projects into actionable programs.

Victoria A

Serving Secret Sauce Daily: Applying the Model that drives Daily Consistency, Productivity, and Efficiency

Christie White, Founder/Owner, What's 4 Lunch

School Nutrition is the largest “restaurant chain” in the country, serving millions of students daily, yet many kitchens operate independently rather than as one unified program. This session shows how to apply the “Franchise Approach” with proven steps to streamline operations, improve efficiency, and create consistency across all sites. Participants leave equipped to strengthen staff retention, ensure accountability, and transform their kitchens into a high-performing program.

Pebble Beach

SESSION 3

Operational Excellence

Choncy Holman, Supervisor; Charles Chong; Clifford Ilderton – Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools

CMS achieves operational excellence by standardizing processes, implementing accountability measures, and fostering strong communication across all kitchen sites. Focus is placed on staff training, streamlined workflows, and data-driven decisions to improve efficiency and consistency. Unified operations and continuous improvement ensure high-quality meals, reliable service, and a positive experience for students and staff.

Auditorium I

Capturing Culinary Legacies: Food Photography for Cafeteria Staff

Lizzie Vetsch, Association Account Manager & Arianne Branch, VP of Strategy & Content, Co-Founder, SEA Level Social

You can capture stunning photos of your school nutrition program using just your smartphone, no fancy lighting or editing required! This webinar offers simple tips on what to photograph and how to showcase your program in the best light, helping you create engaging content with ease.

Auditorium II

Education Sessions

Fueling the Future with Smart Swaps Recipe Demo

Cami Lewis

Auditorium III

Eliminate Misconceptions and Barriers to Expand and Plan Safe Special Diet Menus

Angela Gomez, RDN, SNS, Nutrition & Wellness Supervisor, Alhambra Elementary School District (Phoenix, AZ) & Consultant, National Peanut Board

Special Diet menu planning can feel intimidating, but every student deserves safe, delicious meals. Join Angela Gomez, a K-12 Registered Dietitian with 8+ years of experience, to uncover misconceptions, remove barriers, and explore practical strategies for creating inclusive, confident Special Diet menus. Leave equipped, supported, and inspired to bring the magic of school meals to all students.

Auditorium IV

Cultivating Leadership at Every Level: Lessons from Chapter, State, and National Service.

Heather Perry, SNS, Quality Control Manager, Union County Public Schools

This session shares practical leadership lessons applicable at every stage of involvement. Participants gain strategies to grow as leaders, contribute with confidence, and strengthen the Association through intentional service and engagement.

Cedar

Make it, Take it!

Jessica Obrochta, SNS, Assistant School Nutrition Director, Brunswick County Schools, SNA-NC Nutrition Chair and Committee

National School Lunch Week 2026 is a time to celebrate nutritious meals and the hardworking staff who make them possible. This class provides creative ideas for promoting the week, including fun activities, engaging themes, and marketing tips to excite students, staff, and the community. Learn how to make this week memorable while highlighting the importance of healthy eating in schools.

Colony

Planning for the Future of School Food

Linden Thayer, Principal/Research Scholar, Maya Systems Design/SchoolCAMP at NC State

Explore opportunities to support student, staff, and environmental health through farm-to-school, scratch cooking, student leadership, family engagement, staff meals, recycling, plant-forward menus, and more. Find resources to turn passion projects into actionable programs.

Victoria A

Education Sessions

5 Habits for Unlocking Teamwork Excellence

West Christian, School Food Handler, CEO

Behind every successful school nutrition program is a team that shows up fully. This interactive session highlights five personal habits that help professionals bring their best selves to work. Participants will gain practical strategies in accountability, mindful communication, and intentional presence to enhance both personal performance and team culture.

Pebble Beach

SESSION 4

Step-by-Step Starting & Sustaining a Local SNA Chapter

*SNA-NC District Directors & Jamesie Gentry, Whiteville City Schools Director,
SNA-NC District Director Chair*

Learn the tools and strategies to establish and maintain a thriving local SNA chapter

Auditorium I

Getting Local on the Table

Cindy Southern Marion, DPI-NC Farm-to-School Consultant

An in-depth dive into the ways to bring local foods into your school cafeteria. Finding the best fit for your district and it's needs. How to specify what you want, find your source, procure it and get it delivered.

Auditorium II

Culinary Arts: Straight out of the Kitchen

*Amber Sharpe, DPI- NC Consultant, Culinary Arts Chair & Jessica Jones, Supervisor, Wake
County Public Schools, Culinary Arts Co-Chair*

Let's review the intricacies involved in culinary competitions, exploring both the essential "dos" and the critical "don'ts" to ensure you're well-equipped for a triumphant and successful culinary journey and experience.

Auditorium III

Healthy Made Easy- Real Food for Busy Lives

Amy Moyer & UNCG Dietetic Interns

Colony

Education Sessions



Eliminate Misconceptions and Barriers to Expand and Plan Safe Special Diet Menus

Angela Gomez, RDN, SNS, Nutrition & Wellness Supervisor, Alhambra Elementary School District (Phoenix, AZ) & Consultant, National Peanut Board

Special Diet menu planning can feel intimidating, but every student deserves safe, delicious meals. Join Angela Gomez, a K-12 Registered Dietitian with 8+ years of experience, to uncover misconceptions, remove barriers, and explore practical strategies for creating inclusive, confident Special Diet menus. Leave equipped, supported, and inspired to bring the magic of school meals to all students.

Auditorium IV

Mastering Difficult Conversations

Marilyn Moody, The Culinary Coach

This session helps you identify your style of conflict management and provides ideas for addressing other styles effectively. Participants gain strategies to improve communication and create a more positive work environment.

Cedar

Dining Commons Modernization

Will Maddox, Manager - Education Partnerships, AmTab Manufacturing

During this session, we'll share how thoughtfully designed dining commons and serving spaces can: create a more welcoming dining experience for students and staff, improve traffic flow and operational efficiency inside the cafeteria, and increase participation and overall satisfaction.

Victoria A

5 Habits for Unlocking Teamwork Excellence

West Christian, School Food Handler, CEO

Behind every successful school nutrition program is a team that shows up fully. This interactive session highlights five personal habits that help professionals bring their best selves to work. Participants will gain practical strategies in accountability, mindful communication, and intentional presence to enhance both personal performance and team culture.

Pebble Beach

JOIN US FOR *Fun Night!*

We hope all attendees will join us on Wednesday, June 24, at 7:00 PM for a night full of fun with nutrition professionals from across North Carolina!



SPONSORED BY



**NO KID
HUNGRY**

Awards Banquet

**THURSDAY, JUNE 25
IMPERIAL BALLROOM**

6:00PM-6:30PM

DOORS OPEN

SEATING IS FIRST COME FIRST SERVE | PLEASE ENTER THROUGH IMPERIAL C

6:30PM

WELCOME | *Tammy Rinehart, 2025-2026 President*

INVOCATION

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS | Stephanie Hall, Leadership Development/Awards Chair

INSTALLATION OF THE 2026-2027 SNA-NC OFFICERS | Rachel Findley, Senior Director, Office of School Nutrition, NCDPI

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS | *Tammy Rinehart, 2025-2026 President*

PASSING OF THE GAVEL

PRESENTATION OF NEW PRESIDENT

NEW PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS | *Imer Smith, 2026-2027 President*



First General Session

WELCOME	Imer Smith & Jamie Narron
CONFERENCE KICKOFF	Tammy Rinehart
NATIONAL ANTHEM	Mark Webb
THOUGHT OF THE DAY	Stephanie Patsel
WELCOME TO GREENSBORO	Councilwoman Crawford
INTRODUCTION OF STEERING COMMITTEE	Imer Smith & Jamie Narron
INTRODUCTION OF PAST PRESIDENTS	Tammy Rinehart
RECOGNITION OF PLATINUM SPONSORS	Tammy Rinehart
INTRODUCTION OF CANDIDATES	Stephanie Hall
INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER	Tammy Rinehart
KEYNOTE SPEAKER	Jane Jenkins Herlong
CULINARY & CREATIVE ART AWARDS	Amber Sharpe & Jessica Jones

Second General Session

ANNOUNCEMENTS	Imer Smith & Jamie Narron
THOUGHT FOR THE DAY	Pam Sheets
INTRODUCTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS	Tammy Rinehart
NCDPI UPDATES	Rachel Findley
NCDA UPDATES	Walter Beals
PUBLIC POLICY & LEGISLATION UPDATE	Amy Stanley & Rachel Beaulieu
INTRODUCTION OF CHAPTER PRESIDENTS	Tammy Rinehart

Awards



Chapter of the Year Award

SNA-NC local chapters are the grassroots of the School Nutrition Association. They form the foundation upon which the State and National Associations are built and provide members with opportunities to develop leadership skills.

A thriving local chapter offers training and professional development, allowing members to share ideas, successes, and challenges in a supportive environment. Chapters are hubs of friendship and fun, give back to the community in meaningful ways, advocate for school nutrition programs, and engage with school nutrition professionals at the local level.

Each year, SNA-NC recognizes chapters for their outstanding accomplishments in programs and activities that demonstrate dedication and commitment to both members and the community, while supporting SNA-NC's vision and mission. Chapters are evaluated in five categories: Legislation, Certification, Membership, Nutrition, and General Chapter Activities. First-place winners receive a \$100 award, and second-place winners receive \$50.

Partner in Education Award

The Partner in Education Award honors outstanding implementation of nutrition education activities in both the cafeteria and the classroom. This award highlights your school's achievements and showcases to your peers the excellent work you do every day to promote nutrition education.

Lunch Bell Award

The Lunch Bell Awards are presented annually at the SNA-NC Annual Conference for outstanding service in interpretation of nutrition education and/or school food services in the media. They recognize the tremendous impact of the news media on public awareness and understanding of the need for good nutrition and nutrition education and the role of School Nutrition Programs and the public schools in meeting this need.

Employee of the Year Award

The School Nutrition Association sponsors the Employee of the Year Award to recognize non-managerial school nutrition employees for their outstanding contributions throughout their careers. These everyday heroes play a vital role in turning good programs into exceptional ones, ensuring students are well-nourished and ready to succeed in school.

Awards

Manager of the Year Award

The Manager of the Year Award, in honor of Louise Sublette, is one of the most prestigious awards offered by SNA. It recognizes school nutrition managers for their significant contributions throughout their careers.

The award is named in memory of Louise Sublette, a leader in school nutrition programs in Tennessee and within SNA. Over her 43-year career, she worked across multiple areas of foodservice and nutrition, including public schools, colleges, hospitals, and elderly feeding programs. The award bears her name because Louise consistently emphasized that the success of school nutrition programs relies on the professionals who work in them. She also served as Past President of SNA representing Tennessee.



Director of the Year Award

The School Nutrition Association sponsors the Director of the Year Award to recognize school nutrition directors for their extraordinary contributions throughout their careers in ensuring the success of foodservice programs. Directors are responsible for all aspects of foodservice operations, including budgeting, staffing, training, marketing, and advocating for the benefits of school nutrition programs to students, the education community, and the public. This award is one of the highest honors for directors who manage effective programs that provide healthy, appealing meals to students.

The Mary Long Beasley Award

The Mary Long Beasley Distinguished Service Award honors the memory of Mary Long Beasley, a devoted Child Nutrition Director who served in Nash/Rocky Mount, Johnston County, and Washington City Schools. Mary Long also served as Assistant Director of the Child Nutrition Services Section at the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and as President of the North Carolina School Food Service Association. She was a tireless advocate for children's nutrition programs at both the state and national levels.

Mary Long's passion for school nutrition, positive outlook, and dedication to providing healthy meals to support student learning left a lasting impact on all who knew her.

Each year, SNA-NC recognizes members who embody Mary Long Beasley's joy and optimism. Her family, along with a review team, selects deserving employees, managers, supervisors, and directors to receive this prestigious award.



Awards

Martha Gomer SPIRIT Award

The Martha Gomer SPIRIT Award recognizes an outstanding School Nutrition Supervisor who demonstrates a strong commitment to the School Nutrition Program—and the students who benefit from it—through infectious enthusiasm, a “can-do” attitude, and a spirit of service to both the program and the School Nutrition Association.

Martha Gomer served as a Child Nutrition Supervisor in Wake and Mecklenburg Counties for many years and held numerous offices on the SNA-NC Executive Board. Her passion for students and dedication to the association were truly remarkable.



Gene Causby Memorial Scholarship

The Gene Causby Memorial Scholarship Award is presented annually in honor of Gene Causby, a longtime supporter of SNA-NC and a cherished friend of the association. Gene served as our lobbyist for many years and was known for his warm smile and sense of humor.

The \$1,500 scholarship is awarded to a School Nutrition Director or Supervisor who is a member of SNA-NC to support attendance at the SNA Legislative Action Conference (LAC). Recipients are announced at the SNA-NC Annual Conference.



Tim Greene Memorial Scholarship

The Tim Greene Memorial Scholarship Award is presented annually in honor of Tim Greene, a devoted friend and advocate of School Nutrition. Tim was a passionate participant in the School Nutrition Association’s Legislative Action Conference (LAC) in Washington, DC.

In recognition of his dedication, a \$1,000 scholarship is awarded each year to a School Nutrition employee who is a member of SNA-NC to support attendance at the SNA LAC. Recipients are responsible for any additional costs associated with attending the conference. Winners are announced at the SNA-NC Annual Conference each year.



Awards

Dr. Lynn Harvey First Timer Scholarships

In honor of Dr. Lynn Harvey, who proudly represented North Carolina as the 2017–18 School Nutrition Association President, three First Timer Scholarships are awarded annually to SNA-NC members who have never attended the state conference. Each scholarship includes complimentary registration and \$500 toward conference expenses.

Dr. Harvey served as Senior Director of the Office of School Nutrition and District Operations Division within the N.C. Department of Public Instruction. She is widely recognized for her passion, dedication to school nutrition, and commitment to supporting School Nutrition Professionals. Her efforts have had a positive impact nationwide. SNA-NC is proud to call her one of our own. Dr. Harvey served on the SNA-NC Board of Directors from 2003 until her retirement in December 2024.



Reginald Ross Scholarship

The Reginald Ross Scholarship Award was established to honor the exceptional service of Reggie Ross, who served as President of the School Nutrition Association for the 2020–2021 year. Reggie, a retired Operations and Management Consultant for the NCDPI Office of School Nutrition, was known for his positive attitude and infectious smile. His optimism and leadership guided SNA through the transition to a virtual environment during his presidency, helping North Carolina shine on the national stage.

In his honor, the School Nutrition Association of North Carolina awards a \$1,500 scholarship to a member who has never attended the SNA Annual National Conference (ANC). The scholarship can be used to help cover registration, hotel, and travel expenses.



Congratulations

TO THIS YEAR'S AWARD WINNERS!

We hope you will join us to celebrate them on Thursday, June 25.

2025-2026

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DISTRICT 7 Rhonda Davis
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DISTRICT 8 Angela Pless
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2025-2026

Board of Directors

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LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT	Rachel Beaulieu
BOOKKEEPER	Mary Ann Shoaf

100% Membership Schools

DISTRICT	SCHOOL SYSTEM	SCHOOL
1	Beaufort County Schools	Beaufort County Central Office
1	Elizabeth City/Pasquotank	Central Elementary School
1	Elizabeth City/Pasquotank	Elizabeth City / Pasquotank Central Office
1	Elizabeth City/Pasquotank	Elizabeth City Middle School
1	Elizabeth City/Pasquotank	J.C. Sawyer El School
1	Elizabeth City/Pasquotank	Northeastern High School
1	Elizabeth City/Pasquotank	Northside Elementary School
1	Elizabeth City/Pasquotank	Pasquotank County High School
1	Elizabeth City/Pasquotank	PW Moore Elementary School
1	Elizabeth City/Pasquotank	River Road Middle School
1	Elizabeth City/Pasquotank	Sheep-Harney Elementary School
1	Elizabeth City/Pasquotank	Weeksville Elementary School
1	Pitt County Schools	Ayden Grifton High School
1	Pitt County Schools	Ayden Middle School
1	Pitt County Schools	Belvoir Elementary School
1	Pitt County Schools	Bethel Elementary School
1	Pitt County Schools	C.M. Eppes Middle School
1	Pitt County Schools	Chicod School
1	Pitt County Schools	Creekside Elementary School
1	Pitt County Schools	D.H. Conley High School
1	Pitt County Schools	E.B. Aycokk Middle School
1	Pitt County Schools	Eastern Elementary School
1	Pitt County Schools	Elmhurst Elementary School
1	Pitt County Schools	Falkland Elementary School
1	Pitt County Schools	Farmville Central High School
1	Pitt County Schools	Farmville Middle School
1	Pitt County Schools	G.R. Whitfield School
1	Pitt County Schools	Grifton Elementary School
1	Pitt County Schools	H.B. Sugg / S. Bundy
1	Pitt County Schools	Hope Middle School
1	Pitt County Schools	Lake Forest Elementary School
1	Pitt County Schools	North Pitt High School
1	Pitt County Schools	Pactolus Elementary School

100% Membership Schools

DISTRICT	SCHOOL SYSTEM	SCHOOL
1	Pitt County Schools	Sadie Salter Elementary School
1	Pitt County Schools	South Greenville Elementary School
1	Pitt County Schools	Stokes School
1	Pitt County Schools	Wintergreen Intermediate School
1	Pitt County Schools	Wintergreen Primary School
1	Pitt County Schools	Ridgewood Elementary School
1	Pitt County Schools	Brunswick County Central Office
2	Brunswick County Schools	Jessie Mae Monroe Elementary School
2	Brunswick County Schools	Leland Middle School
2	Brunswick County Schools	North Brunswick High School
2	Brunswick County Schools	South Brunswick High School
2	Brunswick County Schools	Supply Elementary School
2	Brunswick County Schools	Town Creek Elementary School
2	Brunswick County Schools	Waccamaw School
2	Brunswick County Schools	B F Grady Elementary School
2	Duplin County Schools	Beulaville Elementary School
2	Duplin County Schools	Chiquapin Elementary School
2	Duplin County Schools	Duplin County Central Office
2	Duplin County Schools	East Duplin High School
2	Duplin County Schools	James Kenan High School
2	Duplin County Schools	Kenansville Elementary School
2	Duplin County Schools	North Duplin Elementary School
2	Duplin County Schools	Rose Hill Magnolia Elementary School
2	Duplin County Schools	Wallace Elementary School
2	Duplin County Schools	Wallace Rose-Hill High School
2	Duplin County Schools	Warsaw Elementary School
2	Lenoir County Schools	Banks Elementary School
2	Lenoir County Schools	Contentnea-Savannah K-8
2	Lenoir County Schools	EB Frink Middle School
2	Lenoir County Schools	Kinston High School
2	Lenoir County Schools	LaGrange Elementary School
2	Lenoir County Schools	Lenoir County Central Office
2	Lenoir County Schools	Moss Hill Elementary School

100% Membership Schools

DISTRICT	SCHOOL SYSTEM	SCHOOL
2	Lenoir County Schools	North Lenoir High School
2	Wayne County Schools	Northeast Elementary School
2	Johnston County Schools	Northwest Elementary School
2	Bladen County Schools	Pink Hill Elementary School
2	Bladen County Schools	Rochelle Middle School
2	Bladen County Schools	South Lenoir High School
2	Bladen County Schools	Southeast Elementary School
2	Bladen County Schools	Southwood Elementary School
2	Bladen County Schools	Woodington Middle School
2	Bladen County Schools	Wayne County School Nutrition Office
2	Bladen County Schools	Central Office
2	Bladen County Schools	Bladen County Central Services
3	Cumberland County Schools	Bladen Lakes Primary School
4	Hoke County Schools	Bladenboro Middle School
4	Hoke County Schools	Bladenboro Primary School
4	Hoke County Schools	Clarkton School of Discovery
4	Hoke County Schools	Dublin Primary School
4	Hoke County Schools	East Arcadia Elementary School
4	Hoke County Schools	East Bladen High School
4	Hoke County Schools	Elizabethtown Middle School
4	Hoke County Schools	Elizabethtown Primary School
4	Hoke County Schools	Cumberland County Central Office
4	Hoke County Schools	Don Steed Elementary School
4	Hoke County Schools	East Hoke Middle School
4	Scotland County Schools	Hawk Eye Elementary School
4	Cabarrus County Schools	Hoke County Central Office
4	Union County Public Schools	Hoke County High School
4	Union County Public Schools	JW McLauchlin Elementary School
4	Union County Public Schools	Rockfish Hoke Elementary School
4	Union County Public Schools	Sandy Grove Elementary School
4	Union County Public Schools	Sandy Grove Middle School
4	Union County Public Schools	Scurlock Elementary School
4	Union County Public Schools	Upchurch Elementary School

100% Membership Schools

DISTRICT	SCHOOL SYSTEM	SCHOOL
4	Union County Public Schools	West Hoke Elementary School
4	Union County Public Schools	West Hoke Middle School
4	Union County Public Schools	Scotland County Central Office
4	Union County Public Schools	Cabarrus County Central Office
4	Union County Public Schools	Antioch Elementary School
4	Union County Public Schools	Benton Heights Elementary School
4	Union County Public Schools	CATA
4	Union County Public Schools	Cuthbertson High School
4	Union County Public Schools	Cuthbertson Middle School
6	Union County Public Schools	East Elementary School
6	Union County Public Schools	East Union Middle School
6	Union County Public Schools	Fairview Elementary School
6	Union County Public Schools	Forest Hills High School
6	Union County Public Schools	Hemby Bridge Elementary School
6	Union County Public Schools	Indian Trail Elementary School
6	Union County Public Schools	Kensington Elementary School
6	Union County Public Schools	Marshville Elementary School
6	Union County Public Schools	Marvin Elementary School
6	Union County Public Schools	Marvin Ridge High School
6	Union County Public Schools	Marvin Ridge Middle School
6	Union County Public Schools	Monroe High School
6	Davie County Schools	Monroe Middle School
6	Davie County Schools	New Salem Elementary School
6	Davie County Schools	New Town Elementary School
6	Davie County Schools	Parkwood High School
6	Davie County Schools	Parkwood Middle School
6	Davie County Schools	Piedmont High School
6	Davie County Schools	Piedmont Middle School
6	Davie County Schools	Poplin Elementary School
6	Davie County Schools	Porter Ridge Elementary School
6	Davie County Schools	Porter Ridge High School
6	Davie County Schools	Porter Ridge Middle School

100% Membership Schools

DISTRICT	SCHOOL SYSTEM	SCHOOL
6	Henderson County Schools	Prospect Elementary School
6	Henderson County Schools	Rea View Elementary School
6	Henderson County Schools	Rock Rest Elementary School
6	Henderson County Schools	Rocky River Elementary School
6	Henderson County Schools	Sandy Ridge Elementary School
6	Henderson County Schools	Sardis Elementary School
6	Henderson County Schools	Shiloh Valley Primary School
6	Henderson County Schools	Stallings Elementary School
6	Henderson County Schools	Sun Valley High School
6	Henderson County Schools	Sun Valley Middle School
6	Henderson County Schools	Union County Central Office
6	Henderson County Schools	Union Elementary School
6	Henderson County Schools	Unionville Elementary School
7	Henderson County Schools	Walter Bickett Education Center
7	Henderson County Schools	Walter Bickett Elementary School
7	Henderson County Schools	Waxhaw Elementary School
7	Henderson County Schools	Weddington Elementary School
7	Henderson County Schools	Weddington High School
7	Henderson County Schools	Wesley Chapel Elementary School
7	Henderson County Schools	Western Union Elementary School
7	Henderson County Schools	Wingate Elementary School
7	Henderson County Schools	Cooleemee Elementary School
7	Henderson County Schools	Cornatzer Elementary School
7	Henderson County Schools	Davie County Central Office
7	Henderson County Schools	Davie County High School
7	Henderson County Schools	Mocksville Elementary School
8	Henderson County Schools	North Davie Middle School
8	Henderson County Schools	Pinebrook Elementary School
8	Henderson County Schools	Shady Grove Elementary School
8	Henderson County Schools	South Davie Middle School
8	Henderson County Schools	William Ellis Middle School
8	Henderson County Schools	William R. Davie Elementary School

2025-2026

100% Membership Units

DISTRICT	SCHOOL SYSTEM	SCHOOL NUTRITION DIRECTOR
1	Elizabeth City/Pasquotank Schools	Tammy Rinehart
2	Duplin County Schools	L'Nette Stokes
2	Lenoir County Schools	Danelle Turner
4	Hoke County Schools	Deborah Davis Carpenter
6	Union County Public Schools	Denise Lamar

2025-2026

100% Certification Schools

DISTRICT	SCHOOL SYSTEM	SCHOOL
4	Bladen County Schools	Bladen County Central Services
4	Bladen County Schools	Bladen Lakes Primary School
4	Bladen County Schools	East Arcadia Elementary School
4	Bladen County Schools	Elizabethtown Middle School

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2025-2026

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2025-2026

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