



PALMETTO PLATES: NOURISHING INSIGHTS FOR SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL NUTRITION PROS

Edition #3 May 2024

These school nutrition professionals represented South Carolina in St. Louis at the **Healthy Meals Summit**. They taught an education session about utilizing grant money for their program.

LEXINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 3
ANNISSA GONZALEZ

SPARTANBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT 4
AUDRA TERRY

EDGEFIELD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
CONNIE CUNNINGHAM
CHEF HEATHER BIDDLECOME
SANDY SIMS

LEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BRITTNEY LINTON
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Why join SNA?

Our mission is to empower and support school nutrition professionals in advancing the accessibility, quality, and integrity of school nutrition programs.

RECRUIT A MEMBER TODAY!

- The highest percentage of recruits from a district until August 30, 2024 will win a free registration to the Annual Conference in Myrtle Beach in October 2024.
- Prize Drawing – one entry per new membership to be drawn on September 6 for special prizes!

Visit our website to join: www.schoolnutritionsc.com/Membership.aspx



EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Tammy Trammell
SPARTANBURG
DISTRICT FOUR



2023-2024 SNA OF SC AWARD WINNERS

DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

*Benita
Smith*

BERKELEY SCHOOL
DISTRICT



MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Kay Arnold
SPARTANBURG
DISTRICT FOUR





SUMMER MEAL DELIVERY AT UCS

In response to the recent announcement that South Carolina would not be extending extra summer EBT benefits, **Union County Food Services Director, Mickela Mitchell**, swiftly took action to ensure the community's needs were met. Recognizing the potential strain this decision could place on families, Mitchell lead the launch of a home delivery meal program.

The home delivery meal program represents a collaborative effort, drawing on the dedication of food service staff, administrators, and community partners. Together, they ensure that every enrolled student has access to nutritious meals, regardless of their circumstances and provides weekly meal packages of 5 breakfasts and 5 lunches.

It also fueled the debut of their food truck, Buzzworthy Eats!

Since announcing this program, they have received local news coverage from print, radio and social media, plus full support of the School Board. *They are on track to have 1,500 signups and we wish them the best of luck in this very exciting endeavor!*

A REPRESENTATIVE FROM **REPRESENTATIVE RALPH NORMAN'S OFFICE** MADE A VISIT TO UNION COUNTY AND REP. NORMAN SHARED HIS SUPPORT ON HIS SOCIAL MEDIA!



'Buzzworthy Eatz' to bring summer meals to students

By ANNA BROWN
 As Union County Food Services Director Mickela Mitchell says, the Buzzworthy Eatz food truck is 20 feet long, Yellow Jacket proud and ready to bring students much needed nutrition while school is out this summer. Mitchell said with the news that the state of South Carolina would not be offering extra summer EBT benefits, she knew the community would need extra support. "We started in September of 2023 building our home delivery program," Mitchell said. "There are lots of kids during the summer who don't have transportation to pick up meals and the parents are at work. So we will go to them."
 The bright black and gold Buzzworthy Eatz food truck will be rolling June 15 through July 19. The home delivery meal program is available to any household with an enrolled student in Union County Schools. Eligible households can order food for all children ages 18 and under at the PowerSchool address.
 With permission, the Union County School District will deliver a weekly nutrition package. Each package will contain five breakfasts and five lunches that meet USDA nutrition guidelines and feature food for young versions of brands students love like TruMoo chocolate milk, Jack Links chicken jerky, Land O'Lakes cheddar and other items, all shelf stable.
 The packages will also contain a variety of fresh, local seasonal produce such as sweet corn, cantaloupe, cherry tomatoes, and cucumbers.
 It is not necessary for anyone to be at home at the time of the delivery, but households must give the Union County School District permission to deliver.
 Households can grant permission in the district's PowerSchool forms section. The deadline to enroll for home delivery of meals is May 15.
 "We love these kids and we're here to feed them; that's our whole mission," Mitchell said. "We want them to feel like, 'This is really cool.' That's why we bought a food truck."
 During the school year, the truck will serve as an extra point of service and can be used during special events. The school district estimates the nutrition packages retail value will be around \$35 a week. Mitchell said with the Buzzworthy Eatz home delivery, parents could take a break from cooking and high grocery prices this summer.
 Mitchell urged every family that has an enrolled student in Union County Schools to sign up.
 "We're getting a lot of positive feedback about the home delivery program," she said. "Some may be thinking that they don't want to take away from someone else who needs help. What folks need to understand is that the home-delivery summer meal program will not be sustainable without good participation from the community."
 With permission, the Union County School District will deliver a weekly nutrition package this summer to any household with an enrolled student. The deadline to enroll is May 15. (Anna Brown photo)
 We want everyone to sign up!
 The Buzzworthy Eatz truck isn't the first innovation for Union County Schools Food Services this year. Lunchrooms at Union County High School and Forest Park Elementary School have been completely reworked with school colors with graphics, new furniture and food offerings that appeal to young people but also nutritious. Lunchrooms in all the schools will receive improvements.
 (Those with questions may email SummerMeals@unionsc.k12.sc.us. You can follow UCSDFoodServices on Facebook and Instagram when newsletters and updates will be posted.)

FOLLOW THEM AT @UCSDNUTRITION TO SEE BUZZWORTHY EATS' ADVENTURES IN UNION COUNTY!



2024 SIFT | June 27, 2024

[Keynote] Leader: Leading From Where You Are

Stefanie Giannini, MA, SNS

Join Stefanie as she discusses how to cultivate your leader identity to positively influence yourself and those around you; identify your own personal motivations and goals to better understand those who might be both the same and different as you!

Farm to the Lunch Tray Introduction

Donna Davis, Director, Office of Health and Nutrition

From the Farm to the Lunch Tray: A Delicious Journey Awaits!

*Ben Sease, Program Coordinator – Farm to School
Nicholas Eaton, Education Associate, Office of Health and Nutrition
Andrew Evans, SNS Specialist and Training Manager*

Dive into the Battle of the Food Safety Titans: HACCP vs. Local Health Rules - Edit Rules to Code!

Chris Gillespie, Business Development Manager, PortionPac Chemical Corporation

Kitchen Hacks Remix

*Allen Forest, Culinary Specialist
Student Nutrition Services, School District of Pickens County*

Civil Rights 101

Rebecca Rutherford, SNS, Education Associate

Nailing Production Record Compliance

Rebecca Rutherford, SNS, Education Associate



Keep an eye on your inbox for registration information coming soon!

HEALTHY MEALS INCENTIVES RECOGNITION AWARDS

Explore innovative efforts that can engage your cafeteria and improve the over all well-being for you and your students!



USDA HEALTHY MEALS INCENTIVES ACTION PLAN
Grantees Recognition Awards Resources Summit News Subscribe

Healthy Meals Incentives Recognition Awards

Are you blazing new trails or using innovative strategies to improve school meals?
Streamlined Application Now Available!

Embark on a journey with our streamlined Healthy Meals Incentives Recognition Awards, designed to make the application process easier and faster. As part of a cooperative agreement to develop and implement the USDA Food and Nutrition Service's Healthy Meals Incentives (HMI) Initiative, Action for Healthy Kids is recognizing and celebrating School Food Authorities (SFA) who have made operational changes to improve the nutritional quality of their school meals, as well as SFAs who engage students and families in nutrition education and in the planning and preparation of nutritious school meals. For example, one SFA might have introduced a "Build Your Plate" station where students can customize their meals with a variety of nutritious options, while another might have organized cooking classes for students and parents to learn how to prepare healthy meals at home.

HEALTHYMEALSINCENTIVES.ORG/RECOGNITION-AWARDS/

APPLICATIONS WILL CLOSE ON
JUNE 30, 2025 AT 11:59PM ET



DEE'ON BELLAMY, JOYCE LOVETT, DIANE GILLIE, LIZ ROESEL

MEMBERS OF YOUR EXECUTIVE BOARD PROUDLY REPRESENTED SC AT THE **SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE** LAST MONTH IN SEATTLE. A SPECIAL SHOUT-OUT TO **DEE'ON BELLAMY** OF Horry County Schools Nutrition Services for participating in the SNA Future Leaders Program while at #NLC24!

- ### Ways to Support Non-Congregate Meals in Your State
- Work with the state agency that oversees summer meals to learn about what is allowable in your state.
 - Ask your state agency what types of support they need to maximize the availability of non-congregate summer meals.
 - If you are a current summer meals sponsor or are interested in sponsoring and serving summer meals, contact your state agency to learn more.
 - Ensure your network and community knows about the availability of free meals this summer.
 - Find strategies, shareable language, downloadable graphics, and sample social media posts in [Hao Kid Hungry's Summer Meals Outreach Toolkit](#).
 - Visit a site! Coordinate a site visit with a local program provider. Consider engaging media posts to further spread the word.
 - Advocate for the expansion of non-congregate summer meals. Right now, non-congregate meals are only available in rural areas without access to a congregate meal site. However, we know that all communities can benefit from a "to-go" program. Inform your Congressperson about the benefits of non-congregate meals in all communities.

NON-CONGREGATE MEAL SERVICE

HIGHLIGHTING WAYS THAT YOU CAN GET INVOLVED TO INCREASE ACCESS TO SUMMER MEALS IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

In rural communities, ensuring access to nutritious meals, especially during the summer months, can pose unique challenges. However, a recently published resource titled "Making the Most of a Moment: Rural Non-Congregate Summer Meals" provides valuable insights and best practices for addressing this issue.

READ MORE



tinyurl.com/scsummermeal

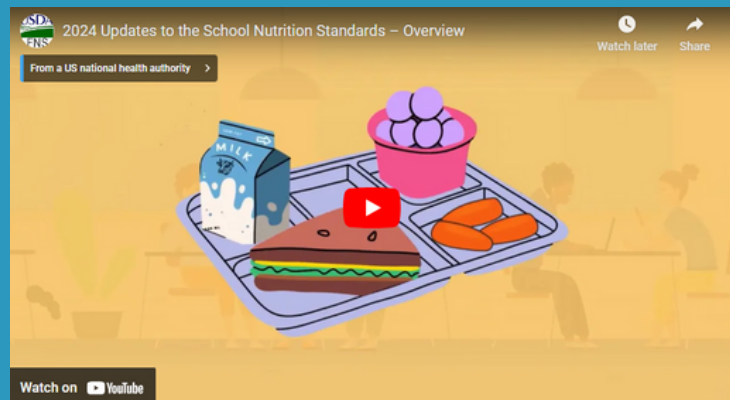


USDA UPDATES TO SCHOOL NUTRITION

USDA IS INVESTING IN SCHOOL MEALS TO MAKE THEM EVEN HEALTHIER! OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS THERE WILL BE GRADUAL CHANGES TO SCHOOL MEALS IN THE NEXT YEARS!

 WATCH NOW

TINYURL.COM/USDASCHOOLMEALS



USDA 2024 Updates to the School Nutrition Standards - Overview

From a US national health authority

Watch on YouTube



Dr. Vivian B. Pilant Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament

