



PALMETTO PLATES: NOURISHING INSIGHTS FOR SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL NUTRITION PROS

Edition #4 July 2024

SNA ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2024 - BOSTON



"This was my first experience, and as I walked in the lobby that morning before the show and looked down, I thought, "WOW, that is HUGE!" I never realized just how much bigger it would seem when they opened the doors and we all started to pile onto the escalator. This was such a great event and the opportunity to be in front of so many vendors and directors from all around the country was surreal.

I came in late so I missed the opening day and all events, but I was able to attend a few sessions on Monday. I aimed my planning towards staffing and marketing of our program. Jeff Joiner led my favorite two sessions, 'Talent Acquisition: Strategies for Recruiting and Retaining Great Employees' and 'Toot Your Own Horn, Without Blowing It.' I enjoyed the messages of both of them as well as his energy and passion, and I just felt like the message completely echoes so many things I am striving to do this year. Since this was my first time in Boston, I was glad that we had some downtime to get out and see some sights. I was able to go to Cheers and Fenway Park, so I now have two more things marked off my bucket list!"

ROB GLACKIN
DIRECTOR OF FOOD SERVICE
SPARTANBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT SIX

SHAPING
TOMORROW
TOGETHER



JULY 14-26, 2024 | BOSTON, MASS.



“

DEAR SNA OF SC MEMBERS,

It has been an absolute honor to serve as your President for the 2023-2024 school year. We hope that you have gained valuable knowledge from our trainings that were held throughout the year. I hope that many friendships have been formed that will last a lifetime. As school nutrition professionals, we all share the same passion, feeding the children of South Carolina. Your dedication and hard work are evident in everything that you do. I cannot say enough how lucky I am to be a part of such a great industry. I hope you are excited for the new year and look forward to many more memories made along the way with each of you!

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**WITH LOVE,
RENE' WEATHERFORD, SNS**

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.
- Prizes for regional winners! One entry per new membership to be drawn on September 6 for special prizes. There will be three winners state-wide.

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





LEE COUNTY'S CULINARY TRAINING: ENHANCING SCHOOL MEALS WITH FRESH AND NATURAL INGREDIENTS

This July, Lee County School District hosted **Joe Urban** and School Food Rocks for a 3-day culinary experience. Through the **Healthy Meals Incentive Grant**, Lee County was able to host a training geared towards scratch/speed scratch cooking and reducing sodium with the use of herbs, spices, and natural flavors. **School Food Rocks** created a 3-day curriculum utilizing K-12 food items including commodity products and fresh produce. The training included knife skills, food safety, innovative menu concepts and recipes tailored to a K-12 staff and student environment.

“Our staff had a great time, learning, growing and gaining skills to ensure our program moves towards USDA’s Final Rule Nutrition Standards while creating delicious student centered meals.”

– BRITTNEY LINTON, LCSD DIRECTOR OF CHILD NUTRITION



LEE COUNTY'S CULINARY TRAINING: ENHANCING SCHOOL MEALS WITH FRESH AND NATURAL INGREDIENTS



INTRODUCING THE SNA HIRING TOOLKIT!

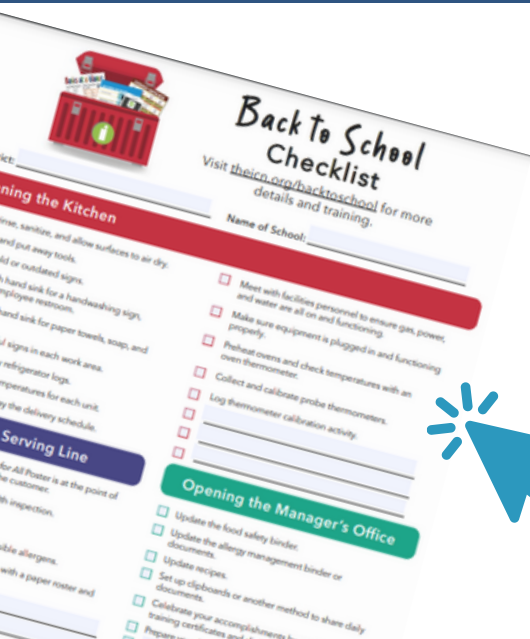
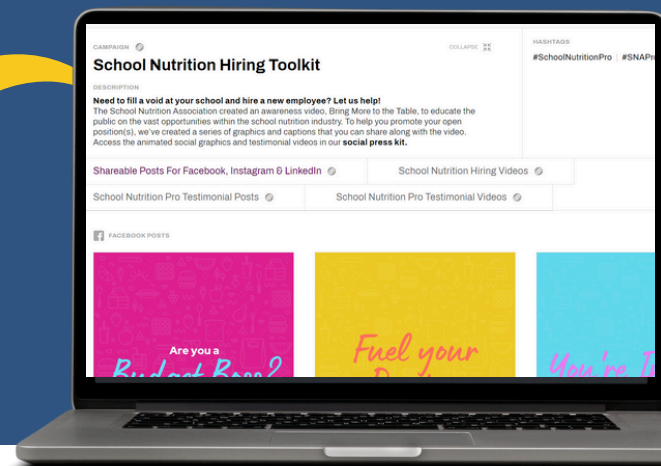
Are you looking to build an exceptional school nutrition team? The School Nutrition Association has launched a comprehensive hiring toolkit designed to help you attract, recruit, and retain talent. This invaluable resource offers a variety of tools and strategies to streamline your hiring process and ensure you find great candidates for your school nutrition program.

THE SNA HIRING TOOLKIT INCLUDES:

- **Customizable templates:** Easy-to-use templates for job descriptions, interview questions, and offer letters
- **Recruitment Strategies:** Effective techniques to reach potential candidates through various channels
- **Retention Tips:** Best practices to keep your staff motivated and engaged

EXPLORE THE SNA HIRING TOOLKIT TODAY AND TAKE THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS STRENGTHENING YOUR SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM! ACCESS TOOL KIT HERE:

[TINYURL.COM/TOOLKITSNA](https://tinyurl.com/toolkitsna)



BACK TO SCHOOL TOOLBOX

Check out the Institute of Child Nutrition's Back to School website for valuable resources to support child nutrition programs. From training materials to toolkits and best practices, this site offers everything you need to ensure a successful and nutritious school year.

EXPLORE THE TOOLKIT AT [THEICN.ORG/INFO/BACKTOSCHOOL](https://www.theicn.org/info/backtoschool)



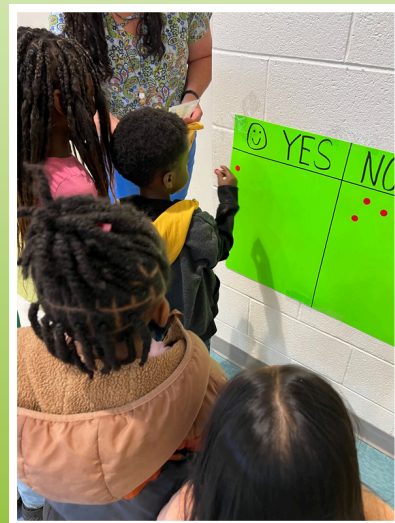
ENGAGING STUDENTS IN NUTRITIOUS MEALS

BACK TO SCHOOL PRODUCT TESTING

JASON CIANACCI

Students are more likely to enjoy and consume meals they genuinely like. As Child Nutrition facilitators, our goal is to provide nutritious meals, making product testing essential in our bidding process. When students participate in taste tests, they become excited about the meals, leading to increased sales and curiosity about menu items. Honest feedback from students helps us refine our offerings, ensuring they have a say in their menu options.

Districts can decide which products to introduce based on their understanding of student preferences. Collaboration among districts for testing new foods can also strengthen relationships with brokers and vendors. Taste testing can be easily conducted in various settings and integrated into lessons, helping students connect with their food. Tools like sticker charts for younger students and QR codes for older students enhance engagement. Our commitment is to ensure the products in our bids meet nutritional standards and student preferences.



**SUBMIT CONTENT OR REQUEST
A TOPIC TO BE FEATURED IN
PALMETTO PLATES!**

Liz Whiteman Roesel

SNA of SC Executive Board
Professional Development Chair
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