



COLORADO  
SCHOOL  
NUTRITION  
ASSOCIATION

Feeding Bodies. Fueling Minds.™

Dec 23 – Jan 24 Newsletter

# Healthy Bites

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- CSNA Summer 24
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## SAVE THE DATES:

- CSNA Summer Conf  
June 11-13, 2024  
(PreCons June 11)  
Loveland, CO
- ANC  
July 14-16, 2024  
Boston, MA
- CSNA Industry  
Oct 2-4, 2024  
Westin, Avon CO

Dear Colorado School Nutrition Association Membership,

Happy New Year! As we embark on a fresh year, I am excited to share some significant developments within our association and schools that highlight our ongoing commitment to student well-being. Despite the challenges posed by supply chain and labor issues, the passing of "Healthy School Meals for All" has brought about positive transformations in student meal participation.



While celebrating our successes, it's important to acknowledge the hurdles we face. The ongoing supply chain and labor issues have presented challenges in ensuring a seamless flow of resources for our school nutrition programs. It is truly remarkable to see the strength of our partnerships within our members to work together, overcome the challenges, and allow us to do what we do best.

As we navigate the complexities of the current landscape, let us remain united in our dedication to providing quality nutrition to the students of Colorado. The Colorado School Nutrition Association will continue working to provide resources that support all our members, celebrate successes, and advocate for the well-being of every student.

Thank you for your unwavering support. Wishing you a year filled with resilience, innovation, and positive impact.

Warm regards,

Brandon Durio, CEC  
2023-24 CSNA President



# **CSNA Summer Conference**

## **2024 Save the Date**

**June 11-13, 2024**

This year's theme *Diverse Plates Diverse Minds* will focus on belonging, finding your place within our cafeterias, and expanding our mindsets. We will also take time to dig into HSMA, local procurement best practices and all that is to come in the 24-25 school year.



We are excited to bring you an agenda with engaging and informative breakout sessions, a food and equipment show with the latest products to help us reach for what is possible, and exciting networking events including our annual viewing of this year's One Plate Chef's Challenge.



Denise Soler Cox, will join us to present our Keynote Session. For Denise, co-producing and co-directing the award-winning film, "Being Eñye" revealed a foundational truth: Belonging is a universal human need. It is a desire in the hearts of everyone. What began as her personal project, became a crusade to positively impact individuals, companies, and communities.

**Tuesday, June 11th:** Precons, SNS Exam, Servsafe

*(Pre-Con space is limited and extra cost might apply: pre-registration required for all pre-cons)*

**Wednesday, June 12th:** Education Sessions (New for 2024, a dedicated education track conducted entirely in Spanish!), Dinner/One Plate Premier, After Party at the Main Event

**Thursday, June 13th:** Education Sessions, Exhibit Hall, Raffle Drawing

We can't wait to see you all in June! Conference details and information can be found on our [conference website page](#).



# **Professional Development**

## **SURVEY**

CSNA is interested in your opinion regarding your school district's typical professional development methods.

What resources do you use to train your nutrition services staff members, and what would you like to see available?

We are interested in as much information as you are willing to provide within this survey. It will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

With this information, CSNA plans to target the professional development opportunities it creates to better meet the needs of members and provide additional value to members.

## **CLICK HERE TO TAKE SURVEY**



### **Increase Your District's ADP ASAP**

Sneak a peek at a couple of our free recipes to increase your district's ADP:

- Spicy Smashed Chickpea Salad
- PB&J Overnight Oats



**Discover More »**





# **CSNA Election 2024**

**Voting will be open Mar 1-22 via  
CSNA website**

## **CSNA 2024 Election of Officers Meet the Candidates!**



**Vice President  
Kim Kilgore, RD, SNS**

**Positions held in CSNA:**

- Committee Member
- Committee Chair
- Regional Training Committee
- SNA SNS Exam Committee

**Director Food & Nutrition Services, Cherry Creek Schools**

**Goals as Vice President:**

1. Elevate the importance of child nutrition programs with all stakeholders.
2. Empower kitchen staff to take opportunities to grow professionally in our programs.
3. Enrich and encourage all districts to collaborate and share resources to improve programs statewide.

*"Through my leadership, I hope to encourage all staff to meet and exceed their potential for the benefit of students across Colorado."*  
- Kim Kilgore, VP Candidate



**Vice President  
Dave Kroeger, MPH, SNS**

**Positions held in CSNA:**

- Committee Member
- Jeffco Chapter President
- Director/Supervisor Representative

**Inventory & Supply Manager, Jeffco Public Schools**

**Goals as Vice President:**

1. Increase SNA's voice in policies regarding school nutrition.
2. Increase Colorado SNA membership.
3. Provide needed support for smaller school districts in Colorado.

*"I have been in leadership roles for most of my career and worked closely with many past CSNA State Presidents and gained knowledge from them."*  
- Dave Kroeger, VP Candidate



# 2024 SNA Awards

**NOMINATIONS DUE MARCH 1, 2024**

**H**onor a colleague by nominating them for an SNA award! There are SNA awards to recognize every member type:

- **Employee of the Year Award**
- **Manager of the Year Award**  
(In honor of Louise Sublette)
- **Director of the Year Award**

It's now easier than ever to recognize a school nutrition colleague (or yourself!) by nominating them for an SNA Award!

- No certificate requirement for Employee and Manager of the Year
- No requirements for a certificate, SNS credential or service on a committee or board for Director of the Year
- Membership requirement for Director of the Year is now 3 years
- Applications have been streamlined and are now all digital
- Regional judging will be done by an ad-hoc committee of volunteers
- You can now team up to collaborate on applications or even self-nominate!

Get started today at [schoolnutrition.org/awards](https://schoolnutrition.org/awards)



**[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT A NOMINATION](https://schoolnutrition.org/awards)**



# TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION IN SCHOOL NUTRITION OPERATIONS

I'm someone who likes to shake things up, so keep that in mind as you read this.

I've been working on simplifying some of my regular tasks lately by using automation, AI, and software. These are hot topics in the news, but people in school nutrition programs rarely talk about them or use them. I think that's a mistake. I encourage you to take a look at the opportunities available to help your operation.

Remember that this is a learning process, and it takes time to get it right. Don't expect to see immediate results. Investing in learning and developing automation is for long-term progress, not quick wins.

In Greeley District-6 Nutrition Services, we use Google Software for almost everything: email, spreadsheets, documents, websites, etc. It keeps us organized and simplifies operations for our kitchens because everything is online and accessible. We frequently use Google Forms, a Google product, to collect information, share information, and automate communications.

For example, we've simplified our record-keeping process by moving Fresh Fruit and Vegetable data records from spreadsheets to Google Forms. It's easy to automate this process from Google Forms responses to fill out Google Sheets, which helps with proper record-keeping, calculations, and multiple-person completion. We also use a Google Sheets Extension called "AutoCrat" that moves the Form Responses to unique sheets and PDFs.



[www.Zapier.com](http://www.Zapier.com)



<https://cloudlab.newvisions.org/autocrat>



We also use Google Forms for information sharing. For instance, when we complete inventory audits, supervisors use a Google form to record the audit results, including comments and action steps. The results are then automatically emailed to the appropriate kitchen staff, with links and attachments to support proper process completion. It also maintains a separate record of the auditing process. We use the AutoCrat extension to accomplish this. We have similar processes in place to communicate field trip information to kitchen managers from Teachers and school staff, as well as the central office and delivery team. Numerous other daily actions within our department have been automated in similar styles.

We also use Zapier, a program that connects software and information and does things with it when something specific happens. For example, when I update a file in Google Drive, it automatically adds the data from that file to a spreadsheet, which I share with one of our vendors weekly to ensure accurate food orders. It also creates the draft email and includes all the appropriate people, so all I have to do is add some information-specific notes and hit send.

I also use Zapier to create an information dashboard that is updated daily. Our POS System allows exports to be emailed to me daily. Zapier checks my emails, takes that export, and uploads it to a specific spreadsheet, which updates the dashboard daily. This means that I have one step to see yesterday's participation information, current sales totals, "Achievements," and records of top menu items.

I encourage you to explore the potential benefits of cutting-edge technologies like automation and AI for your operations. Please don't hesitate to ask any questions you may have!

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## School districts can earn trip to Las Vegas by improving school meals, sharing best practices

*Action for Healthy Kids Announces Awards Program to Improve School Meals*

CHICAGO, IL [Dec. 14, 2023] – Action for Healthy Kids (AFHK) encourages school districts nationwide who have made significant nutritional improvements to the quality of their school meals to apply to the Healthy Meals Incentives Recognition Awards, sponsored by the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). The Recognition Awards application can be found at: [www.healthymealsincentives.org](http://www.healthymealsincentives.org).

Healthy Meals Incentives Recognition Award winners – which will include all school districts who meet award criteria – will receive a travel stipend to attend an exclusive national Healthy Meals Summit in the heart of Las Vegas, NV. Winners will also receive national and local recognition through traditional and social media and have access to an awardee toolkit with promotional resources that help them publicize their success to local media and the school community. FNS and AFHK will share best practices from Recognition Award winners nationwide through traditional and social media, stakeholder engagement, training and technical assistance activities, and Healthy Meals Summits.

The Healthy Meals Incentives Recognition Awards will spotlight innovative strategies that school districts have used to serve meals that meet the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. School districts can apply for one or more of the following Recognition Awards categories:

- Breakfast Trailblazer
- Small and/or Rural School Food Authority Breakfast Trailblazer
- Lunch Trailblazer
- Small and/or Rural School Food Authority Lunch Trailblazer
- Innovative School Lunch Makeover
- Innovation in the Cultural Diversity of School Meals
- Innovation in the Preparation of School Meals
- Innovation in Nutrition Education

School districts in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands are eligible to apply for the Recognition Awards if they participate in the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis over a two-year application period ending June 30, 2025.

"Action for Healthy Kids is excited to partner with USDA's Food and Nutrition Service to showcase innovative school nutrition practices that provide children with access to nutritious school meals," said Rob Bisceglie, CEO of AFHK. "School meals are a powerful tool to help kids get the nutrition they need. We are committed to working with the USDA and school nutrition professionals to ensure that school meals continue to provide the very best for our nation's children."

USDA's Healthy Meals Incentives Initiative is part of the Biden-Harris Administration's [National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health](#) and provides a roadmap of federal government actions to end hunger and reduce diet-related diseases by 2030 – all while reducing disparities.

### ABOUT ACTION FOR HEALTHY KIDS

[Action for Healthy Kids](http://ActionforHealthyKids.org) is dedicated to improving children's health and well-being by bringing together and mobilizing educators, families, and other key stakeholders to help children lead healthy lives. Through its core programming and family-school partnerships, Action for Healthy Kids has impacted more than 20 million children in 55,000 schools nationwide to address systemic challenges in underserved communities. To learn more about its growing network of volunteers and champions, visit: [actionforhealthykids.org](http://actionforhealthykids.org)



# CSNA **2023-24** Industry Members

Thank you for Investing in CSNA

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