

Jessica Soldavini, MPH, RD, LDN
2019 KSCN-SNEB Student Award Recipient



The Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior (SNEB) has partnered with the Korean Society of Community Nutrition (KSCN) to present Jessica Soldavini, MPH, RD, LDN with the KSCN-SNEB Student Award at the SNEB Annual Conference in Orlando, FL July 27-30.

Soldavini's research interests include food insecurity, federal nutrition programs and community-based nutrition and cooking education. She developed this interest while interning at a local health department as an undergraduate student. Through this experience, Soldavini saw inequities in both access to food and nutrition information in minority communities. She in turn chose to pursue a career path where she could address these issues.

Additionally, Soldavini is also passionate about teaching and mentoring students. As a current doctoral student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Soldavini has had the opportunity to teach multiple

courses and host a variety of workshops for students. Moreover, she has also provided volunteer and internship opportunities to nearly 100 students from diverse backgrounds.

One of Soldavini's current research focus areas is on federal child nutrition programs. Since 2016, she has worked closely with the mayor of Chapel Hill and numerous other partner organizations on the Food for the Summer Partnership. This initiative aims to increase the number of free summer meals served in low-income areas during the summer. Her involvement began within the initial stages of the program, assisting with a variety of activities including planning, promotion, implementation and evaluation of the program. In 2017, Soldavini received a Community Engagement Fellowship to conduct an evaluation of the partnership. She used a variety of research methods, some of which include analyzing administrative data, implementing tracking sheets and conducting interviews. As a result of her efforts, the program has served nearly 50,000 meals to children each summer since the partnership began. Soldavini has shared the results of her research at numerous conferences, including SNEB, in the hope that other communities may learn from them as well.

Passionate about addressing health disparities in minority populations, Soldavini plans to continue conducting research in this area as well as advocating for underserved populations and training and mentoring a diverse group of future educators. Her desire to impact the underserved coupled with her critical work done in this area deem her a worth recipient of the 2019 KSCN-SNEB Student Award. ■

ABOUT THE AWARD

The relationship between KSCN and SNEB began in 2011, which includes information sharing and invitations to attend the SNEB Annual Conference. In 2016, the organizations collaborated to present outstanding professionals who obtain membership in both organizations with an award.