

## Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program 2019 SNEB President's Award Recipient



The Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior (SNEB) presents the President's Award to an individual or program in recognition of their outstanding service to both the field of nutrition education and to SNEB. This year, the Society is pleased to present the award to the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) at the SNEB Annual Conference in Orlando, FL July 27-30.

Since 1969, EFNEP has successfully addressed critical societal concerns by employing paraprofessional staff and influencing nutrition and physical

activity behaviors of low-income families, particularly those with young children. Through a community-based, relationship-driven, hands-on educational approach, EFNEP has directly impacted economic, obesity, and food insecurity challenges that hinder the nutritional health and well-being of this nation.

EFNEP is a Federal Extension program that currently operates through the 1862 and 1890 Land-Grant Universities in every state, the District of Columbia, and the six U.S. territories – American Samoa, Guam, Micronesia, Northern Marianas, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, EFNEP uses education to support participants' efforts toward self-sufficiency, nutritional health, and well-being.

Routinely, 80 percent or more EFNEP families report living at or below 100 percent of poverty,

and nearly 70 percent indicate being of minority status. This is important because chronic disease and poor health disproportionately affects minority and low-income audiences. Annual data confirms graduates: improve their diets, improve their nutrition practices, stretch their food dollars farther, handle food more safely, and increase their physical activity levels.

This year, EFNEP celebrates its 50th anniversary. In recognition of this milestone and the impact of the program, SNEB President Jennifer L. McCaffrey, PhD, MPH, RD, University of Illinois Extension selected EFNEP as the recipient of the 2019 SNEB President's Award. During the annual awards presentation, Dr. McCaffrey presented conference attendees who have been involved with the program a custom President's Award lapel pin, honoring their notable contributions to EFNEP and to the field of nutrition education. ■