

Madeleine Sigman-Grant, PhD, RD
*2019 Helen Denning Ullrich Annual Award for Lifetime Excellence
in Nutrition Education Recipient*



Each year, the Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior (SNEB) awards the Helen Denning Ullrich Award to one professional in the nutrition education field that has made outstanding accomplishments throughout their career. This year, the Society is pleased to present the award to Madeleine Sigman-Grant, PhD, RD for her impressive contributions to the field of nutrition education. Dr. Sigman-Grant will receive this honor at the 2019 SNEB Annual Conference in Orlando, FL July 27-30, 2019.

An advocate for nutrition education and behavior issues affecting underserved and at-risk populations, Dr. Sigman-Grant has dedicated her career to improving the health of women and children. More specifically, her work focuses on maternal and child health, ensuring the health and well-being not only of individuals, but that of families and communities as well. Dr. Sigman-Grant began her professional career as a clinical dietitian and a public health nutritionist in the Women, Infants and Children program, where she advanced her passion for her

scope of work.

Later in her career, Dr. Sigman-Grant began her critical work in Extension, successfully integrating her role with research and teaching at the University of Nevada. Her work in Extension resulted in more than 40 peer reviewed publications, 10 book chapters, numerous technical publications, fact sheets, curricula and other educational products. Dr. Sigman-Grant is skilled in

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securing funding for her research, receiving more than \$5.8 million in external grant awards. Through her work in WIC, Extension, professional societies and committees, Dr. Sigman-Grant has been a thought leader and activist for issues and policies related to breastfeeding and early child nutrition. Widely recognized as an expert in breastfeeding and early child feeding, the impact of her work has reached the local, regional and national level. In addition to receiving this year's honor from the Society, Dr. Sigman-Grant is also the recipient of several well-regarded accolades, one of which includes the

Breastfeeding Hall of Excellence Award she received in 2012.

A highly sought after speaker and consultant, Dr. Sigman-Grant has been invited to serve on impact committees and working groups, some of which include the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, International Food Information Council, National Academy of Sciences, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, National Institute of Health, and the International Life Sciences Institute. Moreover, Dr. Sigman-Grant has been active in other professional societies, volunteering her skills and expertise to organizations such as the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. While she retired in 2015, Dr. Sigman-Grant's dedication to the field of nutrition education is evident in her continued engagement within the profession. Specifically, her commitment to the Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior (JNEB) is distinguished with involvement dating back to 1989 when she became a reviewer for the publication. Other roles of note include serving as Chair of the Search Committee for the Journal Editor (2001-2002), serving on the Editorial Board (2007-2012), Chair of the Journal Committee (2011), Chair of the Readership Survey Committee, and coordinator of the committee to select a publisher. In 2015, Dr. Sigman-Grant was selected as an Associate Editor for JNEB, a distinguished role

within the Journal she currently maintains. As such, she manages over 200 manuscripts per year, selecting reviewers, providing guidance for authors and making decisions with scientific rigor, magnanimous grace, and a passion for mentoring. A true leader, Dr. Sigman-Grant has hosted webinars for JNEB and the Society, and has volunteered to present on behalf of JNEB at a number of SNEB annual meetings. Her impressive leadership skills and passion for the profession are highly regarded among her peers.

“Madeleine embodies the ‘pay it forward’ mentality and constantly extends herself to mentor, support, include and credit others,” Amy Mobley, PhD, RD, University of Florida says of her friend and colleague. “She is also known to set high expectations and to push others, rightfully so, to achieve greatness and I am so thankful for this.”

An active member of the Society since 1978, Dr. Sigman-Grant has consistently volunteered or been identified for key roles within SNEB including serving as Chair of

the Food and Nutrition Extension Education Division (2002-2004) and serving on the Nominating Committee (2005-2007). Over the years, Dr. Sigman-Grant has also served on abstract committees and has moderated sessions for both the FNEE pre-conference program and various other conference activities. In 2018, Dr. Sigman-Grant was one of the leading forces behind the establishment of the SNEB Research Division and became its first co-chair. Her vision, planning and wealth of knowledge all so generously shared with the Society has had a tremendous impact on SNEB. Dr. Sigman-Grant credits the Society as being a source of support, inspiration and motivation throughout her career.

“As both a practitioner and an academic, I turn to my SNEB colleagues to seek new ways to impact the lives of those I meet,” she said of the importance of being involved within SNEB. “The field of nutrition education continues to evolve. Being actively involved in SNEB helps us stay on track, learn new skills, and maintain hope. Together we can

celebrate the victories and plan for the future.”

Embodying the nature of a selfless leader, Dr. Sigman-Grant offers these words for upcoming nutrition educators:

“Nutrition education is a rewarding career, but there will be times when you might feel defeated, when you will be challenged,” she said. “Do not live in a silo. Seek out colleagues with whom you share a vision, a passion. Expand your horizons and worldview. Remember to honor the past but live in the present so you can create the future.”

The Helen Denning Ullrich Annual Award recognizes a seasoned professional who has been working in the field for at least 20 years and has been a member of SNEB for 10 years. They also must have made an outstanding achievement in the world of nutrition education, such as teaching, policy making, nutrition promotion or a variety of other areas. The recipient must be a very active member of the Society and excel through it. ■