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Sheila Fleischhaker PhD, JD, RDN Receives the 2018 SNEB Mid-Career Professional Achievement Award

The Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior (SNEB) will honor Sheila Fleischhaker PhD, JD, RDN with the Mid-Career Professional Achievement Award at the 2018 Annual Conference in Minn, MN July 21-24 in recognition of her dedication to the world of nutrition education.

In addition to this year's honor, Fleischhaker has made numerous accomplishments outside of SNEB. She is known for her design and implementation of community, multidisciplinary research. Fleischhaker also led in the American Indian Healthy Eating project, where she worked with seven American Indian tribes in North Carolina to improve access to health and affordable food through planning and policy strategies. Additionally, Fleischhaker has experience in government agencies, having previously served on the U.S. Department of Agriculture to the National Institutes of Health. In 2004, Fleischhaker went to law school, where she had the opportunity to work on Barak Obama's presidential campaign and provide a variety of policy suggestions on food, nutrition and health. In her graduate study, Fleischhaker worked with Dr. Cheryl Achterberg to design a qualitative study about fruits and vegetables to pilot her nutrition education activities. This study illustrated the importance of educational strategies, environment and policy support for healthy eating.

Through her variety of experiences in policy and politics, health, education and research, Fleischhaker is regarded by her colleagues as being well versed in combining all of her qualities to conduct evidence-based research and studies. She integrates aspects of nutrition, culture and health issues in her work with a variety of audiences.

"I have had the opportunity and pleasure of working with Sheila for over 10 years in a number of capacities and have seen directly her dedication and commitment to the field of nutrition education, research and evidence-based policies," colleague Tracy A. Fox MPH, RD said of Fleischhaker. "From her work in government agencies including the U.S. Department of Agriculture to the National Institutes of Health, her various leadership roles within SNEB, and her insatiable curiosity and vision, Sheila reflects the passion and compassion all nutrition educators should embody and I am honored to call her a colleague and a friend," Fox said.

Each year, the Society recognizes a professional in the "mid-career" stage who has not only made a significant impact on nutrition education, but also made significant contributions to the mission of SNEB. Among her various leadership roles within the Society, Fleischhaker served on the Board of Directors as Treasurer, as well as a reviewer for the Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior. In the past, Fleischhaker has played an intricate part of planning the annual conference, which earned some of the highest attendance rates.

“Like no other, SNEB is made up of passionate but diverse members working towards promoting effective nutrition education and health behavior through research, policy, and practice,” Fleischhaker commented on the Society. “The Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior has provided timely insights on the evidence in our field for more than 50 years,” Fleischhaker said.

When asked for her advise to upcoming nutrition educators, Fleischhaker encourages them to seize the day.

“Surround yourself with people who lift you up. And, pay it forward to the next generation of nutrition educators,” Fleischhaker said.

ABOUT THE SOCIETY FOR NUTRITION EDUCATION AND BEHAVIOR

The Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior is an international organization of nutrition education professionals who are dedicated to promoting effective nutrition education and healthy behavior through research, policy and practice with a vision of healthy communities, food systems and behaviors. Visit the Society for Nutrition Education at www.sneb.org.