

Re: Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior Comments regarding the National Nutrition Research Roadmap

The Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior (SNEB) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments to the Interagency Committee on Human Nutrition Research. SNEB is an organization of XXX nutrition educators. SNEB members are actively involved in nutrition and health promotion at universities and schools, government agencies, cooperative extension, communications and public relations firms, the food industry, voluntary and service organizations. SNEB is dedicated to promoting effective nutrition education and healthy behavior. We have a vision of promoting healthy communities, food systems, and behaviors.

SNEB applauds the ICHNR on its thorough work creating the roadmap to further nutrition education and behavior-related research in the United States. In particular, the emphasis on the need for new outcome analysis methodologies aside from RCTs to establish other gold standards, the inclusion of sustainable agriculture and the emphasis on behavioral sciences and promoting education.

We submit several additional comments for consideration by the group. Nutrition education researchers have created many successful education programs, and it is beneficial to promote programs with evidence of promoting healthy behavior change. Nutrition education also requires more than simply the provision of materials. Research indicates this alone is inadequate to change behaviors. Use of psychology and behavior change theories is a valuable aspect that needs to be addressed. The use of models and frameworks as discussed in Q2T2 is an excellent way to incorporate theory and community input into intervention and program development and sustainment.

The group discusses the importance of subsidy and food programs for low income Americans. Numerous education programs within these programs (eg SNAP-ed and WIC) should be included in the need to establish efficacy not only of food provision and access, but also changes in eating behaviors and patterns. Emphasis should be placed on creating ways to help families and individuals receiving these assistance programs to end dependence and attain the socioeconomic stability needed.

Nutrition education researchers have worked to create interventions and programs to promote health and primary prevention for all Americans. In order to continue this work, funding opportunities to support research and effective programming are greatly needed.

The inclusion of workforce readiness in the roadmap is an excellent addition. It is also important to include not only nutrition scientists, but also professionals who will be able to be "boots on the ground" directly interacting with the public to disseminate knowledge and help create change. Medical doctors are required to receive nutrition education, but it is often less than adequate. As a trusted source of health information, MDs are often the first place a person goes for nutrition education. It is critical that they receive more nutrition training delivered by nutrition scientists to strengthen their knowledge base and awareness of nutrition programs and best practices. All nutrition and health professionals should also be required to ensure continued education as the field of nutrition grows quickly. Dissemination of the excellent programs discussed in the roadmap would benefit scientists, health professionals, and the public. Knowledge of what already exists and works is a vital component of furthering our work.

Comment [VC1]: Are there examples that the board would like to put forth?

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments.