



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Rachel Daeger, SNEB
Phone: (317) 328 – 4627
Email: rdaeger@sneb.org

Dipti Dev PhD to Receive 2022 SNEB Early Professional Achievement Award

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (July 1, 2022) The Society of Nutrition Education and Behavior (SNEB) selected Dipti Dev, PhD to receive the Early Professional Achievement Award at the 2022 SNEB Annual Conference. This award recognizes one SNEB member who has made notable contributions in the field of nutrition education and behavior and to SNEB as an organization during the early stages of their career. The award will be presented at the 2022 SNEB Annual Conference during the opening session on July 29, 2022, in Atlanta, GA.

Dr. Dev joined the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2014 as an Extension Specialist and the Betti and Richard Robinson Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education. Her research examines the socio-behavioral factors contributing to childhood obesity. This research aims to accomplish a long-term goal of reducing the rates of childhood obesity by improving children's dietary intake and childcare providers' feeding practices in Early Care and Education (ECE) settings.

Dr. Dev utilizes Cooperative Extension services for collaborative coaching and action planning with rural childcare providers in Nebraska. Her nominator, Dr. Virginia Carraway Stage, writes, "Dr. Dev's research and Extension work have the potential to advance the field of nutrition education through understanding how multi-level feedback improvement processes influence implementation of nutrition-related evidence-based practices in low-resource ECE systems typically found in rural communities."

She has established a nationally recognized program that integrates her research and Extension services. The Ecological Approach to Family Style (EAT Family Style) is a professional development program for childcare providers to improve their implementation of responsive feeding practices and children's dietary intake. The EAT Family Style 16-week intervention includes five evidence-based implementation strategies.

In research published in the *[Journal of Nutritional Education and Behavior](#)* (JNEB), all ECE stakeholders (administrators, teachers, and Extension coaches) reported that EAT Family Style improved children's dietary intake, and implementation of responsive feeding practices also reduced mealtime stress.¹ The program was selected as a 1st Place National and Central Region Winner and received the Early Childhood Child Care Training Award in the National Extension Association for Family and Consumer Sciences (NEAFCS) Annual Awards Program.

"Dipti's publications and grant funding are testaments to her drive and commitment to nutrition education research. As a researcher, her drive has led her to publish over 50 peer-reviewed

journal articles. Dipti is a true innovator and passionate leader in the field of children's nutrition and caregiver feeding," said Virginia C. stage, PhD, RDN, LDN.

Her nutrition education research has also led to a patent for the SensiTray, a device to measure children's dietary intake. The validation of the SensiTray has been published in a high-impact engineering journal and was selected for the platinum award out of 29 teams by the Raikes School of Computer Science Design Studio.

Dr. Dev has received nearly \$1.5 million in grant funding. Since 2014 she has received 11 prestigious awards, including a U. S. Department of Agriculture award for leadership and contributions to the field, the David H. Baker Nutrition Scholar Award from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and two National Awards for her Extension programs from the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. Dr. Dev was a keynote speaker at the Head Start conference in Chicago, presenting on responsive feeding. Dr. Dev is also systematically adapting her EAT program to rural FCCH and was invited to present at the National Pediatric Obesity group that supports FCCH sponsoring agencies from 13 states.

“Even though she does not have a teaching appointment, Dr. Dev is committed to student mentoring. Her publications include student co-authors. Particularly noteworthy is that in 2021, 11 out of 15 peer-reviewed journal publications and in 2022, 4 out of 6 publications included graduate students as first authors. Such an approach to publishing demonstrates both emphases on mentorship and a commitment to preparing future researchers," said Brent McBride, PhD.

Dr. Dev has been an active member of SNEB since 2013. She actively participates in the SNEB conference, where she has presented with her graduate students, all of whom are SNEB members. She is involved with the Food and Nutrition Extension Education and Nutrition Education for Children Divisions, where she served as chair-elect.

A highly collaborative leader, Dr. Dev gathered national child feeding experts and SNEB members, including Dr. Madeleine Sigman-Grant, to develop an Extension publication and presented a webinar on the Penn State Extension platform on "Feeding young children responsively during COVID-19." About 500 participants registered and survey respondents reported that they felt confident about feeding children responsively during COVID-19 after the webinar. She also brought together an interdisciplinary team of SNEB members to work on the Validation of the Mealtime Observation in Child Care (MOCC) instrument and led the proposal development for interviewing 21 state-level Child and Adult Care Food Program directors with national-level collaborators and SNEB members.

1. Dev, D. A., Padasas, I., Hillburn, C., Stage, V. C., & Dzewaltowski, D. A. (2022). Ecological Approach to Family-Style, Multilevel Child Care Intervention: Formative Evaluation Using RE-AIM Framework. *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior*.

ABOUT THE SOCIETY FOR NUTRITION EDUCATION AND BEHAVIOR

The Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior (SNEB) represents the unique professional interests of nutrition educators worldwide. The Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior

advances food and nutrition education research, practice, and policy that promote equity and support public and planetary health and has a vision of people worldwide empowered by food and nutrition education to change behavior, food systems, and policy.