



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

Joanne D. Burke, PhD to Receive 2022 SNEB Helen Denning Ullrich Award for Lifetime Excellence in Nutrition Education

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (July 1, 2022) The Society of Nutrition Education and Behavior (SNEB) will honor Joanne D. Burke PhD, Clinical Professor Emerita, University of New Hampshire at Durham with the Helen Denning Ullrich Award for Lifetime Excellence in Nutrition Education. In acknowledgment of Burke’s accomplishments in teaching, advocacy, and curriculum development within the field of nutrition, she will receive this award at the 2022 SNEB Annual Conference during the opening session on July 29, 2022, in Atlanta, GA and online.

Established to honor Helen Denning Ullrich, this award recognizes a SNEB member for outstanding achievement in nutrition education. Helen was one of a group of pioneering leaders dedicated to making sound nutrition education a tool for effective change. She was the first Editor of the *Journal of Nutrition Education*.

Burke’s career path began as an Outpatient Dietitian at the VA Hospital in Boston, followed by teaching at Boston College for over twenty-five years, and working as a community nutrition educator with Cooperative Extension at the University of New Hampshire (UNH). She earned her Ph.D in 2002. In 2004, UNH appointed her director of the Dietetic Internship, where she also developed curriculum and taught courses at both undergraduate and graduate levels.

Dr. Burke’s work in curriculum, operations, research and engagement is focused on advancing equitable and sustainable food systems via state and regional initiatives. Under Burke’s leadership, the internship became a Master’s-granting program, with an emphasis on “Sustainable Food Systems as Drivers of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.” She served as the Thomas Haas Professor of Sustainable Food Systems, with the UNH Sustainability Institute and was the first UNH clinical professor to advance from assistant to full clinical professor.

Her “Engaged Scholarship” focuses on food system planning, with a special emphasis on the roles of race, socio-economic status, food security and their impacts on food access, nutrition, and health. This scholarship is one of the ways Burke focuses on creating access to a fair, just, and sustainable food system through her seamless integration of teaching and service. “Only by addressing systemic issues that contribute to food insecurity can we move beyond addressing symptoms of hunger, and ensure access to healthy food as a human right,” said Dr. Burke. Her integration of teaching and social benefit earned her the 2018 Faculty Excellence in Public Service Award from the University of New Hampshire.

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics recognized her as a dietitian who inspires through her passion for social justice and racial equity in the food system. To address the challenges nutrition education professionals encounter in transforming food systems toward sustainability, Burke served on the Food Solutions New England committee to create the 21-Day Racial Equity Habit-Building Challenge. The annual Challenge builds knowledge and community as participants commit to individual actions that together contribute to dismantling racism in the food system and world. In 2022, she partnered with SNEB's Division of Sustainable Food Systems members to moderate discussion forums for SNEB members during the Challenge.

Dr. Pamela Koch recognizes Joanne Burke as someone with a “well-established record of unapologetically addressing racism in the food system” and with “a rare ability to make other feel comfortable as they enter a process of self-exploration [in order] to engage in conversations that may feel new and potentially threatening.”

Burke served as a faculty member of the Food Security Task Force, providing support to the student driven initiative to adopt the “Swipe-It-Forward” campaign at UNH. This collaborative program allows food-insecure students to confidently swipe meal cards to pay for food at any of the dining halls. Swipe-It-Forward demonstrates “Dr. Burke’s most impressive trait, being her insistence on social wellness and sustainability in all of her endeavors,” said Dr. Jasia Steinmetz. Leveraging task force relationships and commitments, and in collaboration with a regional New Hampshire nonprofit (Gather), that many Seacoast residents rely on for food Dr. Burke was instrumental in laying the ground work for the UNH teaching and “Repurposing Kitchen.” This kitchen diverts nourishing food from the waste stream and prepares it for distribution to UNH and community pantries.

Dr. Burke currently serves on the Division of Sustainable Food Systems steering committee. During the past two years, Dr. Burke collaborated with SNEB leadership through a guided training with the Board of Directors, which led to establishing a SNEB standing committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The DEI Committee is working with Dr. Burke to provide training and resources for all SNEB members.

“What we do, individually and collectively, can and will make a difference as we work toward stronger, more equitable, sustainable food systems,” said Dr. Burke. “SNEB’s leadership and advocacy is essential during these challenging times, and I’m honored to work in community with so many dedicated teachers, students, and professionals committed to racial equity and food justice.”

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.