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## **Well-Connected Communities – Healthy Street Healthy Me Community Engagement Project Receives 2023 SNEB Nutrition Education Program Impact Award**

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (August 30, 2023) The Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior (SNEB) has selected [\*Well Connected Communities – Healthy Street Healthy Me Community Engagement Project\*](#), led by Virginie Zoumenou, PhD, CNS, for the 2023 SNEB Nutrition Education Program Impact Award. The award was presented at the 2023 SNEB International Conference during the awards ceremony on July 21, 2023, in Washington, D.C.

The SNEB Nutrition Education Program Impact Award is given to an individual or a group for a nutrition education program, practice, or intervention that has resulted in documented changes in behavior.

Launched in 2017, the *Well-Connected Communities – Healthy Street Healthy Me Community Engagement Project* is a 10-year project aimed at initiating a culture of health through community engagement in three communities (Fruitland, Princess Anne-Eden and Pocomoke) on the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland.

“The methodology included the Culture of Health Action Framework, a continuing coalition building, a multi-sector health council initiation, community health assessment, issues identification, action plan development and implementation,” explained Pascasie Adedze, PhD, MPH in her nomination.

“Approximately 250 youth, 50 adults, 12 community-based organizations, seven businesses and eight government agencies initiated the coalition. Currently more than 300 youth, 100 adults participated in the project.”

Approximately 50% of the elementary students in the program improved their academic achievement. Nutrition and Agriculture college students gained skills in community nutrition education and minor orchard maintenance, respectively. Community members increased their knowledge of agriculture, mental and physical health practices.

Dr. Zoumenou, professor of dietetics and nutrition, state extension nutrition specialist, and extension nutrition and health program leader at UMES, led the community initiative and accepted the award.

“It’s all about training people to be sustainable,” said Zoumenou. “It’s just amazing to see how the community can come out together. If the community is not engaged, you cannot go anywhere.”

### **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.