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Virginia Stage Receives 2023 SNEB Research Award

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (August 30, 2023) The Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior (SNEB) honored Virginia Stage, PhD, RDN with the Research Award at the 2023 SNEB Annual Conference. This award was given to acknowledge notable research achievements in the field of nutrition education and behavior. The award was presented at the 2023 SNEB Annual Conference during the awards ceremony on July 21, 2023, in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Stage is a registered dietitian through the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education. She received her PhD in Nutrition Science from North Carolina State University. She is currently assistant professor of nutrition education and behavior change extension specialist with the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at North Carolina State University, associate professor of nutrition science with the College of Allied Health Sciences at East Carolina University, adjunct professor with the Department of Public Health at Brody School of Medicine East Carolina University and Food-based Early Education (FEEEd) Lab Director with the College of Allied Health Sciences at East Carolina University.

Stage was nominated by SNEB Research Division chair Chris Taylor, PhD, RDN, LD.

“[Stage] is an expert in designing and evaluating school-based nutrition education interventions and has pioneered the use of innovative educational and mixed methods approaches to improve dietary quality and school readiness among children from historically marginalized families with limited resources,” said Taylor.

Since the start of her academic career in 2013, Dr. Stage has successfully obtained over \$4.5 million dollars in federal funding to support her nutrition education-focused research and extension programming. She has obtained approximately \$3 million in federal funding as principal investigator from the NIH NIGMS Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA) and as co-investigator from the NSF (Discovery Research PreK-12) focused on integrating food-based learning and science experiences in the preschool classroom. In support of her nutrition education programs, Stage has also worked toward improving the validity and rigor of research methods used in the field of nutrition education and behavior. An SNEB member since 2013, Stage has been since 2013 she has chaired both the Journal Committee and the Research division. She is currently a member of the SNEB Board of Directors.

“From the moment I started working with Dr. Stage,” said a mentee of Stage, “she made it a point to teach her students the end goal of research goes beyond publishing peer-reviewed articles, rather research’s ultimate goal is to benefit our community. Ultimately, Dr. Stage has helped us all understand the why behind the nutrition education research we do every day. It’s

not about publications, presentations or grants, but about improving the lives of those around us.”

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.