



**School Nutrition Association
Outstanding Director of the Year Award**

**Nomination Form
Form 1**

Nominee's Name Allison M. Bradford SNA Membership Number 188620
 School District Anoka-Hennepin District 11 State Minnesota
 Address 2727 N Ferry St.
 City Anoka State MN Zip Code 55303
 Work Phone Number (763) 506-1243 Fax (763) 506-1253
 Email Address (if available) allison.bradford@anoka.k12.mn.us
 Number of years nominee has been a(n):
 School Foodservice Director 11 SNA Member 13 State Association Member 13

Is the nominee? (please check one)

- SNA Certified
 SFNS Credential

Directions: Briefly describe the nominee's accomplishments in the areas being judged that clearly demonstrate how their efforts have helped to enhance the school foodservice and nutrition program in their district. Written materials may not exceed the space provided on the nomination form. Be very specific and provide sufficient information on the nominee's results and/or benefits to the program. Please remember to sign the nomination form.

Program Enhancement (please describe how well this person manages the foodservice program)
 This director possesses the ability to be constantly aware of and manage the diverse complexities of a very large school district, while yet understanding and caring about each individual staff member and customer of the program. Every question, decision, and challenge is resolved innovatively by answering the question "What's best for the district's kids?" She establishes student focus groups to gather their input for cafeteria renovations, menu changes and new product testing. She makes difficult and sound financial decisions required to keep student meal prices affordable and yet produce the positive margins needed make the entire program self-supporting and to renovate cafeterias into attractive food courts where students are comfortable and able to choose from numerous tasty and nutritious meal selections. Student needs for increased variety and safe food, as well as fiscal accountability were key factors in deciding to transition from a central warehouse system that was of inadequate size for the district, to a site-direct delivery process.

Outstanding Director of the Year Nomination Form 1 Continued**Staff Development** (please provide information on training provided to staff)

Child Nutrition building staff members describe this director as a non-judgmental, reachable leader, who has complete confidence in her staff, and possesses a positive attitude which brings her staff up and helps them know they are doing a great job. She lives up to the sentiment on a framed print hanging in her office that states "there is no exercise better for the heart than reaching out and lifting people up." She believes and helps her staff believe that no child can learn without breakfast & lunch, that all staff are a vital part of a child's education. She communicates to all staff that her job is to remove the barriers and provide the tools they need to do their jobs, and that she is proud of them, their accomplishments, and their service to children. She encourages staff development through her own attitude and role modeling of attendance at chapter meetings, state conferences and other learning opportunities, and also by budgeting to pay fees and provide training. In-district training sessions have been provided on performance management strategies, harassment prevention, understanding diversity, Serv Safe, right to know, problem solving, interviewing and hiring. Most training time is paid work time with fees paid by the district. She arranges for speakers to come from other departments within the district so that all staff have the opportunity to learn about the district as a whole and benefit from the expertise of others. She directs a large amount of resources in the form of time and money to having as many staff as possible trained in Serv Safe and holding Minnesota Food Manager Licenses, for which the department pays all licensing fees. She encourages staff to become trainers. She truly understands what we do, is firm, yet compassionate, and gives us permission to have fun in our work while still holding us to high standards of quality. She knows how to make work fun, and one staff person commented that she "giggles from the very bottom of her tummy". In keeping with her belief of doing what's best for kids, she knows that the good of the students is served when employees are well-trained and satisfied with their jobs.

School Involvement (please describe what the nominee has done to promote school foodservice programs in their district)

Her ability to develop and maintain good working relationships with both site administrators and other departments positions and promotes CNP in the district, has earned her and the department the respect of other district administrators. She listens to concerns of principals, parents, staff and students and modifies menus, ala carte selections, and other areas of the program collaboratively. One good example is the focus groups of parents, teachers, principals, and students that were involved in the planning process for cafeteria renovations. She was and continues to be actively involved in the development and implementation of the District's wellness policy and other initiatives. She often presents to parent groups, principal groups, teacher groups, and the School Board on many aspects of nutrition and the department. She represents the department on numerous district-wide committees/groups, including ISA, District directors planning group, administrative hiring teams, and the District's health & safety committee.

FORM 1

Outstanding Director of the Year Nomination Form 1 Continued

Association Involvement (please describe what the nominee has done to promote involvement in SNA and their state association to their employees)

This director truly leads her staff by example in the area of association involvement. She has been a member of numerous state association committees, including industry, revenue generating, skills workshop, nutrition conference, state conference, and MSFSA strategic planning in the mid 90's. She served two terms as chapter president, and continues to assist with program planning for the chapter. She supports and encourages all employees to attend chapter, state, and national functions and to become officers and committee members, in many cases being sure to have budgeted to compensate them for their and expenses to do so. She is also an active member of the Northwest Director's Group, and the Minnesota School Food Service Directors Group.

Community Involvement (please describe what the nominee has done to contribute to their community through involvement in community-based organizations)

This director believes whole-heartedly and communicates that belief to all that Child Nutrition provides a vital and important service to the community as a whole. She has worked to donate program leftovers to local food shelves and food recovery programs. Under her direction, the department has provided nutritious meals and snacks to community day care programs, private schools, summer programs, after-school programs, and many weekend events. Her philosophy is to "find a way to make it work" whenever a community program needs our services. She has been part of many meetings of parents and community members involving the current wellness policy and the program in general, enthusiastically accepting parent's views on how our program might improve their child's health. She has worked collaboratively with the Minnesota Department of Health on a multi-year study of the benefits of serving fruits and vegetables to elementary students, and often hosts student interns interested in our program. She often provides resources to the media and other groups on children's diet and other program issues.



Submitted by Chuck Holden, Patty Duenow, Esther Motyka, Cindy Kopacz, Linda Trebby District Anoka-Hennepin Dist II
(Please print clearly)

Date Submitted March 1, 2007



**SCHOOL
NUTRITION
ASSOCIATION**

Making the right food choices, together.

FORM 1	
Official Use Only	
Assigned Number _____	
Date Sent to Committee _____	