

2017 School Nutrition Champion Nominees

- **Kathleen Becker, Nutrition Services Representative at Willow Bend Elementary School in Rolling Meadows:** "Her 'can-do' attitude is contagious."
- **Mary Hill, Midwest Central CUSD 191 Food Service Director:** "Mary cares about our students and understands for many of them that eating at school may be the best food they have all day."
- **Mary Perce, Food Service Coordinator for Ball Chatham CUSD 5:** "She has worked tirelessly to promote 'scratch cooking' in each of the district's six kitchens to reduce dependence on processed foods."
- **Rachelle "Shelly" Wuellner, Food Services Director of Bunker Hill CUSD 8:** "She introduces new and healthy options for students to try, never hesitant of the extra work it might cause herself ..."
- **Debbie Gregory, head cook; Jennifer Bennet; Renee Browning; and Diane Bowman, all of Meredosia-Chambersburg SD 11**
- **Laura Kletz of Bloomington Public Schools District 87:** "Laura is an A++ manager, always reaching outside of the box to improve herself, her staff, and her cafeteria."
- **Lisa Reber, Meridian CUSD 223 Food Services Director:** "Lisa is continually trying new recipes and promoting new items in all of our cafeterias."
- **Aaron McCarter, cafeteria manager, and staff Sara Carico, and Julie Bichsel at Quincy Notre Dame High School:** "They and Aaron work together like a well oiled machine."
- **Darla Kasperek, food service bookkeeper/administrative assistant:** "Darla belongs to an elite group of employees that have stayed in one job for their entire career, as she has dedicated her life's work to the food service department in Rich Township HS District 227."
- **Bonnie Wright, Blue Ridge School District Food Service Director:** "She creates a welcoming environment for our students, produces delicious meals, and runs her program in compliance with all of the complicated rules and regulations."
- **Regan Petersen, Cafeteria Director in Genoa-Kingston CUSD 424:** "Regan enjoys her job and comes to work every day prepared to take on her responsibilities no matter what the challenges."
- **Robenson Pompilus, a Kitchen Manager in Evanston Township HS District 202:** "Because we are not continuously receiving deliveries, Robby does a tremendous job of floating to different stations in the department to help everything run smoothly."
- **Elvia Moreno, head cook of DePue Unit School District 103:** "Elvia starts off the day serving each of these kids breakfast with a smile. She is quick to engage in conversation, and truly cares about each one of our students."
- **Carolyn Jent, Director of Food Services at Ridgeview CUSD 19:** "We have seen the number of students eating breakfast and lunch skyrocket since Carolyn has become our food director."
- **Julie McCoy, Director of School Nutrition at Bloomington School District 87:** "She is very committed and involved in heading up our wellness program, initializing recycling and composting, and coordinating donations to various shelters in our community."
- **Sandra Duniphan, cafeteria manager for Pontiac William Holliday School District in Fairview Heights:** "Not only is Sandra the cafeteria manager, but she also cooks, cashiers, and cleans on a daily basis. ... She truly is a one of a kind and goes above and beyond to excel in everything she, and her department, do!" (2017 School Nutrition Champion)
- **Sheryl Bagley, district head cook for Okaw Valley CUSD 302:** "Sheryl has met the demands of the new nutrition rules head-on. She is very concerned about meeting the demands while providing lunches the elementary students will eat."
- **Kari Perkins, Food Service Director for Urbana School District 116:** "Kari was instrumental in the recent renovation of our high school cafeteria and kitchen. She has also singlehandedly applied for and been awarded grants to assist us in purchasing much-needed equipment for our programs."



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