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Norfolk Public Schools' Senior Director of School Nutrition Nabs Mid-Atlantic Regional Director Award

Norfolk, VA – The School Nutrition Association (SNA) has recognized Norfolk Public Schools' Senior Director of School Nutrition Lisa Winter as its Mid-Atlantic Regional Director of the Year! The national, nonprofit's award recognizes the extraordinary contributions of school nutrition directors who manage effective school meal programs providing healthy, appetizing meals to students.

Since becoming NPS' senior director in 2019, Winter and her staff have prided themselves on expanding access to nutritious meals for Norfolk students throughout the entire year, not just when school is in session. NPS is enrolled in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), which gives students free breakfast and lunch, regardless of their financial status. The division's Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program is putting locally grown fruits and vegetables in 23 schools, and under the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), nearly all of NPS' schools offer after-school snack and dinner programs. Come summer, Winter and her team are providing meals to 24 schools with help from some of NPS' partners in education.

"Food insecurity is a complex, social issue that cannot be solved by schools alone. We are thrilled to be part of a network of organizations and individuals focused on creating sustainable, equitable, local food systems," Winter said.

Winter never stops thinking about better ways to feed children and was instrumental in obtaining a food truck to support Norfolk communities in food deserts. She and her team also provide invaluable nutrition education to the community through camps.

Winter also never stops thinking about recruitment to ensure that she has the team to continue providing amazing food service to the Norfolk community. In fact, she offers paid, on-the-job training to students in NPS' Career & Technical Education program and works with the Department of Student Support Services to place graduates with special needs in School Nutrition jobs.

"While we appreciate receiving recognition for efforts and innovations, there is still a lot of work left to do. Elevating our programs to the next level cannot be accomplished without increasing our workforce," Winter said. "If you believe NPS students can benefit from increased scratch-cooking, culturally inclusive menus, farm-to-school programs, and environmental sustainability initiatives, we would love to have you join our family!"

Winter was announced as the Mid-Atlantic Regional Director of the Year during an online awards ceremony on May 2, just in time to celebrate her achievement along with all of NPS' dedicated School Nutrition professionals for School Lunch Hero Day on Friday, May 5.

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Norfolk Public Schools (NPS) is on a mission to ensure that all students maximize their academic potential, develop skills for lifelong learning, and become successful contributors to a global society. We believe Norfolk Public Schools is the cornerstone of a proudly diverse community with highly qualified teachers and staff dedicated to providing diverse teaching and learning opportunities for all students.



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