

2022 Awards Recognition

The Washington State Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics annual Awards program recognizes individuals who have demonstrated exemplary commitment and contributions in the field of nutrition and dietetics. We are honored to recognize the efforts and accomplishments of our outstanding peers, colleagues, and students. Your Washington State Academy Board would like to thank the district representatives and individuals who submitted nominations this year. Thank you also to each nominee for following through with the fairly extensive on-line application process.

Beginning last fall, information about the Washington State Academy and the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics awards was distributed to each of our district dietetic associations, along with a request for nominations. Awards information was posted on the Washington State Academy website and communicated to all members via email and social media communications. To select our award recipients, a panel of Washington State Academy board members reviewed all applications, using standardized scoring.

We encourage you to consider nominating someone (or yourself) next year! You can begin the process as early as you have a nominee in mind. Please take note of the following:

- Students are nominated by their program coordinators.
- Washington State Academy members may nominate someone or themselves.
- You can continue to re-nominate peers who you feel should have been recognized.

We are excited to celebrate these exceptional members.

Warmly,
Jacqueline Little, MS, RD
Awards Chair

OUTSTANDING DIETITIAN OF THE YEAR

Michelle Hagan, MS, RDN, CD



The Washington State Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics is proud to honor Michelle Hagan, as Washington State's Outstanding Dietitian of the Year (ODY) for 2022. This award is the most prestigious recognition that the Washington State Academy can give. The award honors a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) who has demonstrated leadership and who has served as an outstanding role model of professionalism and as a source of inspiration to others in dietetics.

Michelle Hagan has been a pediatric dietitian for almost 30 years. Currently, she works as an Outpatient Pediatric Dietitian for Providence in Spokane WA seeing her patients in primary care provider offices throughout Spokane. Michelle loves working with children and their families. Michelle practices a team approach working with patients, PCP, feeding therapists and counselors as she feels that coordination of care provides better services for her families.

Michelle grew up in Wapato WA and went to the University of Idaho (Go Vandals!) and WSU. She and her husband Paul have 2 children, Abby and James, and are getting ready to embark on their next adventure of being empty nesters.

Michelle loves to read, garden and be outdoors hiking, walking, biking, or camping. Her favorite quote is from Brene Brown in *Daring Greatly*, "Don't try to win over the haters; you're not the jackass whisperer."

PAST ODY RECIPIENTS

YEAR	RECIPIENT	YEAR	RECIPIENT	YEAR	RECIPIENT
1983	Nancy Beurgel	1997	Susan Lukacs	2011	Nancy James
1984	Kaye Funk	1998	Elaine Reid	2012	Karen Barale
1985	Colleen Matthys	1999	Betty Lucas	2013	Kathy Dirks
1986	Luanne Anderson	2000	Ethan Bergman	2014	Janet Beary
1987	Not awarded	2001	Paula Charuhas	2015	Louise Peck
1988	Ruth McDonald	2002	Carol Griffith	2016	Angel Planells
1989	Gladys Jennings	2003	Not awarded	2017	Anne Lund
1990	Dorothea "Dottie" Nicholson	2005	Not awarded	2018	Sharon Feucht
1991	Margaret Brown	2006	Annie Frederick	2019	Alison Evert
1992	Marilyn Guthrie	2007	Michelle Weinbender	2020	Susan Yake
1994	Virginia McMulkin	2008	Caroline Steele	2021	Shaekira L. Niehuser
1995	Martha Peppones	2009	Barbara J. Pyper		
1996	Paula Hudon	2010	Debe Nagy-Nero		

RECOGNIZED YOUNG DIETITIAN OF THE YEAR

Brajee Green, MS, RDN



The Washington State Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics is proud to honor Brajee Green as the Recognized Young Dietitian of the Year (RYDY) for 2022. The purpose of the annual RYDY award is to recognize the competency and activities of young dietitians in the Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics, while also encouraging continual member participation in Association affairs.

Brajee is a registered dietitian at Providence Infusion and Pharmacy Services in Spokane, WA. She graduated from Washington State University in the coordinated graduate program in 2019.

She currently serves on her local Spokane dietetic board as the National Nutrition Month® Chair, the Washington State Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics as the Nominating Committee Chair - elect, and the Northwest ASPEN board as the treasurer.

Her passion is nutrition support and creating long lasting relationships with her patients. In her free time, she likes trying new restaurants, spending time with her husband and two kids, and of course drinking lots of coffee!

PAST RYDY RECIPIENTS

YEAR	RECIPIENT	YEAR	RECIPIENT	YEAR	RECIPIENT
1978	Cheryl Marshall	1990	Janis Harsila	2002	Katie Thorner
	Sue Foise		Terri Trisler		Mary Jennings
1979	Polly Lenssen	1991	Linette Jurdy	2003	Beth Ogata
	Jennifer Parenteua		Leslie Thomson		Holly Trujillo
1980	Judy Larsen	1992	Victoria Warren	2004	Kelly Frederick
	Margaret Gross		Elaine Reid	2005	Amy Myrtue
1981	Marilyn Guthrie	1993	Kathy Marlon	2006	Jennifer Helms
	Jean Sloan		Shelly Nagle		Sarah Zarelli
1982	Barbara Himes	1994	Paula Charuhas	2007	Lisa Grentz
	Rebecca Esvelt		Julie Drzewiecki		Andrea Hill
1983	Mari Chapman	1995	Mary Paeth	2008	Heidi Roberts
	Chelene Campbell		Denise Zimmer		Kristen Rezabek
1984	Debra Thumser French	1996	Julie Mahler	2009	Bobbi Jo Rettman
	Carol Melby		Julie Muelheim	2010	Allison Stanton
1985	Kathleen Clark	1997	Nikki Kettles	2011	Michon Williams
	Alison Becker Evert		Caroline Swenson	2013	Lindsay Hays
1986	Laurie Ditton	1998	Jennifer Newman	2014	Amy Frasier
	Barbara Eldridge		Michelle Hagan	2015	Katy Figel
1987	Perri Bernard	1999	Annie Frederick	2016	Maureen Chomko
	Lisa Meusborn		Kim Robien		Chris Vogliano
1988	Cheryl Johnson	2000	Wendy Weyer	2017	Marissa Beck
	Megan Veldee		Susette Gjovik	2018	Bec McDorman
1989	Jacqueline Beard	2001	Marybeth Roberts	2019	Mari O. Mazon
	Kathy Dirks			2020	Julie Larsen
				2021	Emily Haymond

EMERGING DIETETIC LEADER

Leslie Weidner, RDN



The Washington State Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics is proud to honor Leslie Weidner as the Emerging Dietetic Leader of 2022. The purpose of the annual EDL award is recognize the competence and activities of dietitians regardless of their age, who have made distinctive contributions early in their dietetics careers to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

Leslie Weidner started her private practice in 2017, providing 1:1 nutrition counseling to individuals, as well as nutrition education and cooking classes to small groups in her local community. For the last few years, she's made it her mission to help women struggling with the physical and emotional changes of perimenopause and menopause through nutrition and lifestyle coaching. Leslie uses the principles of intuitive eating to help women improve their relationship with food

and their body, while teaching them how to make sustainable lifestyle and nutrition changes that supports their hormonal health. She also manages her own website, nutrition blog and monthly newsletter to support her clients, and leads online virtual nutrition workshops related to women's nutrition and hormonal health. States a letter of recommendation: "The work she does with women during what can be an overwhelming and frustrating time is so valuable to the community and to the profession. Her videos about the struggles of menopause and perimenopause help women understand that they are not alone and gives them a community of other women facing similar challenges, with a healthy dose of humor and some nutrition tips to help them in their journey. Her commitment to this community is commendable. "

Ms. Weidner has also served in many leadership positions, including serving on the board of the Greater Seattle Dietetics Association (GSDA) and the Nutrition Entrepreneur Dietetics Practice Group (NE DPG). Leslie has been the lead Nominating Committee member of GSDA for three years and has taken on the role of Membership Chair from 2021-2022, as she continues to grow her leadership in the organization. States a letter of recommendation: "She remains one of our longest running board members and her insight and contributions to the organization have been and continue to be invaluable." In addition to her work with the local district, she has also taken on the role of Social Media Chair for the Nutrition Entrepreneur Dietetic Practice Group (NE DPG) where she continues to grow as a leader and promote this wonderful DPG.

According to a letter of recommendation: "Leslie is a wonderful leader in our local and national dietetics community and in the community of the women she serves in her private practice."

PAST EMERGING DIETETIC LEADER AWARD RECIPIENTS

YEAR	RECIPIENT	YEAR	RECIPIENT
2000	Donna Parsons	2013	Marissa Claiborne
2001	Pam Mahre	2016	April Davis
2004	Judy Heesacker	2017	Ben Atkinson
2007	Stacy Lueck	2019	Susie Fox
2009	Kendra Swartz	2020	Ginger Hultin
2010	Livia Wagner	2021	Meredith Freeland
2011	Marie Millren Tucker		

EXCELLENCE IN MANAGEMENT PRACTICE AWARD

Melissa Molloy, MS, RDN, CD



The Washington State Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics is proud to honor Melissa Molly for the Excellence in Community Practice Award for 2022. The purpose of the Practice Awards recognizes outstanding registered dietitian nutritionists; nutrition and dietetics technicians, registered; and members who have demonstrated innovation, creativity, and leadership in a specific area of practice.

Melissa earned a BS from Michigan State University and pursued a MS while interning at Eastern Illinois University. After completion, Melissa moved to Indiana in 2014. Here she worked as a Clinical Nutrition Manager at OrthoIndy, providing nutrition care for inpatients and outpatients, training food service staff, and supporting other local area hospitals through audits and training.

Melissa relocated to Washington in 2017, branching out from food service and management into outpatient nutrition counseling working for ATI Physical Therapy for 2 years. There she helped clients with a range of nutrition-related needs including food allergy management, weight management, blood sugar control, and heart-health measure improvements.

Melissa currently works for UW Valley Medical Center in the role of Manager of Clinical Nutrition & Patient Services serving the southside of the Greater Seattle area. In this role she has collaborated with other disciplines to improve tighter glucose control for patients and presented to WSHA on outcomes, increased dietitian FTEs to better match increased complexity of patients, and improved patient tray delivery services by decreasing the number of late trays and increasing patient satisfaction. She has been awarded both Silver Star of the Year and Gold Star for continuous improvement efforts for her work supporting nutrition services.

Melissa is a member of the Quality Management Committee for the Academy and is current Secretary of the Washington State Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

PAST EXCELLENCE IN MANAGEMENT PRACTICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

YEAR	RECIPIENT
2016	Adam Pazder
2017	Katie Farver
2018	Kelsey Thomas
2020	Heather Watkins

PAST CLINICAL/RESEARCH AWARD RECIPIENTS

YEAR	RECIPIENT	YEAR	RECIPIENT
1998	Nancy James	2007	Katie Farver
1999	Polly Lenssen	2008	Diane Packard
2000	Johanna Lampe	2010	Lonnie Isaacson
2001	Ruth Patterson	2011	Marilyn Shelton
2002	Susan Scheunemann	2012	Joan Milton
2003	Caroline Steele	2014	Ben Atkinson
2005	Kim Nowak-Cooperman	2015	Megan Nordland
		2017	Julie Church

PAST COMMUNITY PRACTICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

YEAR	RECIPIENT	YEAR	RECIPIENT
1998	Vivienne Dutzar	2011	Lisa Randall
1999	Sandi Laney	2012	Lori Tanner
2000	Lonnie Isaacson	2013	Laurie J. Schaetzel-Hill
2001	Becky Knapp	2014	Joan Brookhyser Hogan
2002	Michelle Weinbender	2015	Stacey Trogdon
2003	Martha Marino	2016	Chelsey Lindahl
2004	Sharon Feucht	2017	Judy Simon
2007	Jan Gilliam	2019	Alexandra Bush-Kaufman
2008	Malvina "Annie" Goodwin	2020	Rebecca Finkel
2009	Michelle Hagan	2021	Chris Mornick
2010	Sue Butkus		

The above 2 awards had no applications in 2022.

OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARDS

The purpose of the Washington State Academy's Outstanding Student Award is to recognize the emerging leadership and achievement of students in Academy-accredited and approved dietetic education programs. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics established this award in 1994 to recognize students who have demonstrated exceptional academic excellence and leadership in their dietetics program.

Outstanding Student in a Coordinated Program in Dietetics

Kaitlin Sandberg



The Washington State Academy is proud to honor Kaitlin Sandberg with the 2022 Outstanding Dietetics Student in a Coordinated Program in Dietetics.

Kaitlin Sandberg is a second-year student completing her Master of Science in Nutritional Sciences through the Graduate Coordinated Program in Dietetics at the University of Washington. She received a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and Global Business from the University of Southern California in 2011. With a background in brand marketing and product innovation for food and beverage brands, she comes to dietetics with nearly a decade of industry experience. The UW School of Public Health has had a profound impact on her career path, and she plans to

work as a clinical dietitian providing medical nutrition therapy after graduation. Kaitlin is passionate about individualized care, weight-inclusive approaches to nutrition education, and evidence-based guidelines that drive equity in the field of dietetics.

Outstanding Student in a Dietetic Internship Lorianne LaVoie



The Washington State Academy is proud to honor Lorianne LaVoie with the 2022 Outstanding Student in a Dietetic Internship award.

Lorianne is a current MSN-DPD student at Bastyr University, expected to graduate in June 2022. During the course of her graduate studies, Lorianne has shown great commitment to academic excellence, peer development, and community involvement for the purpose of becoming a competent, engaged, and compassionate nutrition professional.

In addition to achieving excellence in her graduate studies, she has completed a variety of internships and volunteer experiences that have given her a passion for clinical nutrition.

During an internship at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Lorianne developed educational materials for patients and caregivers for nutrition-related side effects during cancer treatment to be used in a pilot study. Following completion of a clinically focused dietetic internship, Lorianne hopes to pursue certification as a specialist in oncology nutrition and engage in precepting and education roles.

In her free time, Lorianne loves to bake bread, hike, and explore the trails in beautiful Washington State.

Outstanding Student in an Internship in Dietetics

Cassandra Pacheco



The Washington State Academy is proud to honor Cassandra Pacheco with the 2022 Outstanding Dietetics Student in a Didactic Program in Dietetics.

Cassandra Pacheco studied at Central Washington University (CWU) where she graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Food Science and Nutrition in 2020 and Yakima Valley College where she received her Associate in Arts degree in 2016. She is expected to complete her current Dietetic Internship at Central Washington University by July 2022. Throughout her internship she had the honor of learning at Kadlec Regional Hospital and Selah School District,

where she provided MNT education, Spanish translation services and aided in reestablishing scratch menus, post Covid.

Before returning to school to complete her studies at CWU, she worked at Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic (YVFWC) where she became interested in preventative healthcare through serving and educating her community with nutrition-based approaches. Throughout her schooling and the Covid pandemic, she volunteered at YVFWC, Stone Church and the Union Gospel Mission to provide low-income and homeless communities within the Yakima Valley with meals and basic resources. Working and volunteering in the Yakima Valley during a pandemic gave her the unique experience of physically learning about food insecurity, lack of nutrition education and the severity chronic disease in my own community.

These experiences, along with her internship, have been deeply ingrained in her heart and have allowed her to grow as a student, community member and future dietitian. She looks forward to building, interacting and participating in the growth of the nutrition field within the Yakima Valley.