



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

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September 9, 2016

TO: School Nutrition Administrators

FROM: Lynn Harvey, Ed.D., RDN, LDN, FAND, SNS
Chief, School Nutrition Services

Janice B. Ezzell, Consultant
School Nutrition Services

SUBJECT: 2016 NCDPI Annual Conference for School Nutrition Administrators

We are pleased to announce the Annual Conference for School Nutrition Administrators sponsored by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction is scheduled for **October 26-28, 2016** at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel and Convention Center in Research Triangle Park, NC. This professional development event will begin with a luncheon on Wednesday, October 26 at 12:00 noon and will conclude on Friday, October 28 at 11:30 a.m. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 26. There will be general session speakers providing relevant information on a variety of School Nutrition topics, multiple breakout sessions, and networking sessions during the conference.

Register Today! Registration Deadline is October 11, 2016!

Conference details, including registration, lodging and meals information, are provided beginning on the next page. **Please note the deadline for securing hotel reservations is September 26, 2016.** Please reserve your hotel room as soon as possible in order to receive the conference rate. Also, we are pleased to offer the School Nutrition Specialist (SNS) Exam during the conference; **the registration deadline for the SNS Exam is October 5, 2016.**

This year, the General Sessions will focus on building strong leadership skills. To assist in this process, each conference registrant will be asked to participate in an electronic leadership assessment. **Participants must complete this assessment no later than October 11, 2016** in order to have the assessment results before the Conference begins. You will receive detailed information about the electronic assessment upon completion of the Conference Registration. Please make time over the next few weeks to take the assessment (which is valued at \$15.00 per assessment) so you will have your own personal assessment during the General Sessions. Having your own assessment results (which will be known only to you) will help you more fully engage in the content of the sessions.

We look forward to seeing you at the NCDPI Annual Conference for School Nutrition Administrators Conference!

SCHOOL NUTRITION SERVICES SECTION

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

2016 NCDPI Annual Conference for School Nutrition Administrators

Sheraton Imperial Hotel & Convention Center | Research Triangle Park, NC | October 26-28, 2016

Conference Details

“Leading from Our Strengths: Using Courage, Confidence, Commitment and Trust to Make a Difference”

Lodging

Please make individual hotel reservations by calling the Sheraton Imperial Hotel at (919) 941-5050 or Central Reservations at (800) 325-3535. Or make reservations online at:

<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/NCDPI2016AnnualConferenceforSNAdministrators>

The conference hotel rate is \$119.00 plus 13.5% tax per night for single or double occupancy. **Reservations must be made prior to September 26, 2016 at the Sheraton to receive these discounted room rates. The rates will increase significantly after September 26.** For directions to the hotel, please go to www.sheratonrtp.com and click on the directions icon on the home page.

ROOM RESERVATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 26, 2016

Conference Registration

REGISTRATION LINK: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/sn_annualconf2016

Registrants will receive a confirmation at the time of registration. It is important to PRINT the confirmation before clicking on SUBMIT. Upon registering for the conference, you will receive specific details about taking the electronic “strengths finders” leadership assessment. The NCDPI will pay the one-time assessment fee of \$15.00 per conference registrant. Conference participations will not be able to take the electronic assessment after the October 11 deadline, nor will they be able to take the assessment during the conference.

General Session Prep - Strengths Finder Assessment

This year, conference attendees will be participating in an interactive skill assessment activity. The first general session speaker (Stosh Walsh) will talk about the “Strengths Finder” and what your individual strengths mean for your unique kind of leadership. In preparation for this session we are asking that you complete the “Strengths Finder’s” Interactive Assessment. The link for the assessment will be sent to conference registrants within 2-3 days following registration. Each assessment will be confidential and will be known only to the individual participant. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** This is a timed assessment; therefore, individuals should prepare to complete it when the chance of interruption is minimal. Please complete the evaluation by **October 11, 2016**.

2016 Pre-Conference – SNS Exam

We are again offering the School Nutrition Specialist (SNS) Exam as a pre-conference session to provide you with the opportunity to obtain this credential from the School Nutrition Association (SNA). SNA established the SNS Credentialing Program in 1997 to enhance the professional image of school nutrition professionals, elevate professional standards and enhance individual performance. The SNS Credential is a mark of excellence and achievement that reflects what it takes to manage school nutrition programs in today’s challenging climate. The

SNS Credentialing Exam evaluates candidates' knowledge and skills required to perform specific job activities related to managing or directing school nutrition programs.

SNA's School Nutrition Specialist (SNS) Credentialing program is governed by the Certificate and Credentialing Governing Council, an autonomous arm of the School Nutrition Association. The Governing Council members and SNA Credentialing Program Staff are solely responsible for the policies and administration of SNA's Credentialing program.

The exam will be administered on **October 26, 2016 at 8:00 AM** in room **Empire D** at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel and Convention Center, 4700 Emperor Blvd, Durham, NC 27703 (Research Triangle Park).

To Apply for the Exam:

1. Download and use the [SNS Credentialing Handbook & Application](#) to register for the exam.
2. [Read the SNS Exam Preparation Tips](#) (SNS website – Preparing for the SNS Exam section)
3. Purchase the [SNS Study Guide](#) (optional)

Registration Deadline: October 5, 2016.

Contact Susan Thompson at susan.thompson@dpi.nc.gov if you need more information about this pre-conference session.

Exam proctors will be Sherry Held (sherry.held@dpi.nc.gov) and Frank Fiorella (frank.fiorella@dpi.nc.gov)

Meals

The menus selected for the conference are included with this email. Please review and indicate any special dietary requests in the online registration form.