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Orofino Junior-Senior High School Kitchen Manager Receives National Award

(National Harbor, MD – May 1, 2018) – The national, non-profit School Nutrition Association (SNA) has named Jerrilyn Hernandez from Orofino Junior-Senior High School in Joint School District 171, ID, the 2018 *Manager of the Year*. Considered the highest honor a school nutrition manager can earn, the award recognizes a cafeteria manager who has demonstrated dedication and ingenuity to improve his or her school meal program.

Jerrilyn Hernandez has made it her mission to research various grants to support new ways of offering healthy options in the cafeteria. Through those grants, she has implemented several successful initiatives, including a new smoothie and yogurt parfait maker, an a la carte kiosk and a salad bar, which has helped increase student consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables. Hernandez also helped implemented a Breakfast in the Classroom program, increasing breakfast participation from 16 percent to 89 percent at the school.

Hernandez is responsible for more than just her school building cafeteria, also overseeing food delivery to two smaller, more remote school sites in the district. Over the past several years, she has also taken on the responsibility of training all 20 district staff on maintaining production records. She also tracks and reviews these records for the district, which has led to greatly improved accuracy.

Her skillset in the cafeteria is complimented by an incredible dedication to community. While acting as president of her SNA chapter, she led members in service by raising money for the pregnancy crisis center, creating food baskets for the VFW, collecting school supplies for children, donated money for a little girl who needed a medical procedure and providing 2,000 meals for the local Firemen's Academy in the last several years.

“Taking on more responsibility in her profession and continuing to do more for her community, Jerrilyn Hernandez goes above and beyond the duties of kitchen manager, just one of many reasons she has been named this year's Manager of the Year,” said SNA President Lynn Harvey, EdD, RDN, SNS. “Her dedication to research and grant writing ensures her program is constantly evolving and improving.”

Another Idaho school foodservice professional being recognized for her dedication to school nutrition is Marlene Toothaker of Boise School District, ID, who was named by SNA as the northwest regional *Employee of the Year*.

"Our State Board is so proud of our two winners," said Idaho School Nutrition Association President Peggy Bodnar. "There were many fantastic nominees in the state, making our decision to choose Marlene and Jerrilyn very difficult. We are so happy they are being recognized in the region and in the nation for their commitment to the students in their districts. Their dedication to the field of child nutrition is commendable and motivational to others in the profession."

The *Manager of the Year Award* is given in honor of Louise Sublette, a leader in school nutrition in her state and in the national School Nutrition Association. During her 43 years in the profession, Sublette worked in many areas of foodservice—public schools, colleges, hospitals and elderly feeding programs. Sublette dedicated her career to honoring school nutrition professionals and ensuring those who work in school cafeterias have access to professional development opportunities, empowering them to help their school meal programs flourish.

In July, Hernandez will be honored during the Red Carpet Awards Ceremony at the School Nutrition Association's Annual National Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.

About School Nutrition Association:

The School Nutrition Association (SNA) is a national, non-profit professional organization representing 57,000 school nutrition professionals across the country. Founded in 1946, SNA and its members are dedicated to making healthy school meals and nutrition education available to all students. For more information on school meals, visit www.SchoolNutrition.org/SchoolMeals.