



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2017 NATIONAL FAME AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

ORLANDO, Fla. – Nov. 10, 2016 – Basic American Foods, Schwan’s Food Service, Inc., and Tyson Foods, Inc., sponsors of the 28th annual **Foodservice Achievement Management Excellence (FAME) Awards** program are pleased to announce the 2017 National FAME Award winners.

The National FAME Awards most prestigious honor – the **Golden School Foodservice Director of the Year Award** – will be presented to Executive Director Betti Wiggins, CPM, SNS, Office of School Nutrition, Detroit Public Schools, Detroit, Mich. at an award ceremony Jan. 22 in Orlando, Fla.

Wiggins is an outspoken advocate for children and is considered by peers to be a skilled collaborator and community leader. She earned a bachelor’s degree in nutrition from Wayne State University in Detroit. She said she fell in love with the city at that time. Her career began in Ann Arbor, Mich. with Marriott Corporation. From there, she went to work in the school nutrition industry in Patterson, N.J., Baltimore, Md. and Washington, D.C. before returning to Detroit.

She was a staunch supporter of improving nutrition standards long before the enactment of the Healthy, Hunger- Free Kids Act. She works with the Detroit School Garden Collaborative and Drew Farm to grow and serve fresh vegetables in the school district she serves. The 2-acre Drew Farm was Wiggins’ creation and is part of the Drew Transition Center, a Detroit Public School serving 18-26-year-old students with cognitive and physical disabilities.

Wiggins received a grant from the U-Haul Growing Detroit Green Economy Fund to implement the Detroit Schools Permaculture Project at Ludington Magnet School. The project grows produce using alternative agricultural methods such as Huegel growing. This methodology utilizes wood debris and organic material to grow fresh produce. Technology, horticulture and partnership are all keys to the success Wiggins has had in providing students in her district with fresh, locally-grown, healthy produce.

Wiggins is a founding board member of the Detroit Food Policy Council. This group is committed to nurturing the development and maintenance of sustainable, local food systems to make Detroit a food-secure city. Her life’s ambition has been finding opportunities for her city’s residents to live hunger-free and healthy while benefiting from the local food system.

Wiggins is an advisor to the National Farm to School network. Her record of accomplishment through collaboration with public and private partnerships includes Lifetime Fitness, Kroeger Corporation, Priority Health and many other groups and companies sharing her passion.

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Wiggins's work in the nutrition industry has only just begun. Her latest project is the development of the Kettering Food Enterprise Center. It's a \$20 million project with goals to create the Food Enterprise Development Corporation, a non-profit community development raising funds to develop the former Kettering High School campus into a food business park. The goal for the building and 27-acre campus in the center of the city is to provide opportunities for underserved constituents through food production, processing workforce development and other opportunities for the community. Wiggins's audacious brand of leadership is worthy of this year's Golden Foodservice Director of the Year Award.

Additional 2017 FAME Award winners include:

Silver Leadership Award: School Nutrition Services Director Kevin Ponce, SNS, Oklahoma City Public Schools, Oklahoma City, Okla.

Silver Spirit Award: Manager Daniel Ellnor, BA, C.P.-F.S., Nutrition Service Center, Jefferson County Public Schools, Louisville, Ky.

Silver Special Achievement Award: District Child Nutrition Director Gay Anderson, SNS, Brandon Valley 49-2, Brandon, S.D.

Silver Rising Star Award: School Nutrition Director Meredith Potter, RD, SNS, MBA, Houston County Board of Education, Perry, Ga.

Silver Friend of Child Nutrition: Director, Product Training K-12 Shirley Brown, Rich Products Corporation, Fresno, Calif.

For 28 years the FAME Awards have been honoring school nutrition professionals who raise the industry standards by tackling challenges within their school districts and communities. The event is scheduled for Jan. 22, 2017 at the Hyatt Regency Orlando, Orlando, Fla., site of the School Nutrition Association's (SNA) 2017 School Nutrition Industry Conference (SNIC). FAME event tickets can be obtained by visiting www.fameawards.net. For event updates throughout the year, visit www.fameawards.net or www.facebook.com/fameawards.

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