



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**POTTER NAMED SILVER RISING STAR WINNER AT NATIONAL FAME CEREMONY**

**ORLANDO, Fla.** – Jan. 23, 2017 – Houston County Board of Education School Nutrition Director Meredith Potter, MBA, RD, SNS, of Perry, Ga. received the Silver Rising Star Award at the National Foodservice Achievement Management Excellence (FAME) award ceremony on Jan. 22, 2017. This year's ceremony was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Orlando, Fla., during the School Nutrition Association's (SNA) 2017 School Nutrition Industry Conference (SNIC).

Potter's colleagues describe her as a person with a passion for nutrition and a desire to help others. She began her career in school nutrition in 2008 and has since climbed the ladder from dietitian to director. She is responsible for 38 schools with a staff of 400. She manages an \$18 million budget while delivering positive revenue back to her district.

This past year, Potter oversaw the construction of new coolers and freezers in seven schools, made possible by a grant award of \$850,000 from the Partners for Breakfast in the Classroom funded by the Walmart Foundation. Potter also collaborates with her local School Nutrition Association to host an annual Food Show to provide school nutrition directors, state staff and students a venue to evaluate products displayed by area food brokers. The success of this event resulted in winning a USDA Best Practice Award for leadership and program development. Under Potter's leadership, Houston County's School Nutrition program has won six USDA Best Practice Awards.

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. This prestigious program is sponsored by Basic American Foods, Schwan's Food Service, Inc. and Tyson Foods, Inc. For more event details, visit [www.fameawards.net](http://www.fameawards.net) or [www.facebook.com/fameawards](http://www.facebook.com/fameawards).

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