



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SCHLEIN NAMED SILVER RISING STAR WINNER

NEW ORLEANS, La. – Jan. 21, 2018 – Richmond County School District Nutrition Services Director Kelly Schlein of Augusta, Ga. Is the 2018 recipient of the National Foodservice Achievement Management Excellence’s (FAME) Silver Rising Star Award. Schlein received her award at the FAME award ceremony held at the Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans during the School Nutrition Association’s 2018 School Nutrition Industry Conference. The Silver Rising Star Award is awarded to a food service director whose contributions make a marked difference in their school district’s nutrition program.

In the past two years as director, Kelly Schlein comprehensively revamped and rebranded the school nutrition program in the Richmond County School District. As a product of the school district she now serves, Schlein’s commitment to the students and to the community runs deep. In her role as Director, she is responsible for approximately 400 staff and manages an annual budget of \$24 million. Her vision and leadership improved the nutrition program and increased lunch participation by five percent district-wide. Her key focuses are improving marketing to promote health eating, introducing locally sourced foods into the menu, working with school administrators to help them understand the unique challenges of food service workers, and modernizing data collection to inform and improve menu offerings.

“I’m truly humbled and honored to be a FAME Award recipient. I knew at a very young age that I wanted to help sick people get well after finding my niche in school nutrition I realized that I had the opportunity to help young people prevent chronic diseases and illnesses by eating properly and moving more,” said Schlein.

“As a district leader, I was shocked to my core when I discovered our school system has nearly 300 homeless students. Many of our students are facing adult issues every day and I feel it is all of our jobs to help lighten their loads in any way possible. If you look beyond the gates of the Augusta National, home of the Masters Golf Tournament, you will find many students receive their only warm, nutritious meals while they are at school. I couldn’t be more proud of the unsung heroes, my outstanding staff of 400 who serve over 30,000 students breakfast, lunch, afterschool snacks and supper daily.”

Schlein oversaw the introduction of a smartphone app that allows students to rate menu options and allows food service workers to adjust menus accordingly. Under Schlein’s leadership, the school district earned two USDA Best Practices Awards for increasing participation in school food programs, and for using social marketing to promote nutrition programs. Additionally, Schlein successfully recertified district-wide participation in the federal Community Eligibility Provision, so students enjoy school meals at “no cost”.

For 29 years the FAME Awards have been honoring school nutrition professionals who raise the industry standards by tackling challenges within their school districts and communities. 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.

###

For Additional Event Information, Please Contact:

Dana Clerkin

(703) 477-4172

clerkindp@gmail.com