



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **TENG NAMED GOLDEN DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER**

**NEW ORLEANS, La.** – Jan. 21, 2018 – Administrator of Food and Nutrition Service, Lauren Teng, of the Huntington Beach Union School District, Huntington Beach, Calif., is the 2018 recipient of the National Foodservice Achievement Management Excellence's (FAME) Golden Director of the Year Award. Teng received her award at the FAME award ceremony at the Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans during the School Nutrition Association's 2018 School Nutrition Industry Conference. The Golden Director of the Year Award is awarded to a director who demonstrates outstanding achievement in leadership, spirit and dedication, innovation, career awards, management and systems, humanitarianism and community involvement, and bettering the lives of students.

With 34 years as a director, Lauren Teng continues to build upon a long history of proven management skills and innovative, forward-thinking methods to improve student nutrition. Teng is a leader in modernizing foodservice delivery options in her school district to ensure that all students have quick and easy access to meals. Teng continues to grow her program even in the face of declining enrollment by changing the traditional avenues through which food is served to students.

"When I worked at the Veteran's Hospital, it was a challenge discussing restrictive diets with patients who expressed, "I'm going to die anyway and I'll eat what I want." This was my "aha" moment. I felt by reaching children and teaching them that eating more healthfully can be delicious and fun, they would develop better eating habits and reduce the nutrition related health problems the Vets were experiencing. It's been my vision to not only feed hungry kids, but also find a way to integrate nutrition into the classroom."

Teng made lunch a more relevant part of the school day by working with school administrators to move the lunch period from later in the day to midday, introducing mobile food carts into the areas where students congregate for lunch, opening the first on-campus coffee house, and increasing fresh produce consumption by 150% by promoting classroom nutrition. Her efforts to introduce nutrition into the classroom include partnering school foodservices with science and culinary classes to link nutrition to the core curriculum. Teng initiated the district "Summer Institute" by partnering with mentor teachers. Teng and her team of mentors and nutrition specialists provided teachers with the proper training and tools to execute nutrition lessons in the classroom.

Teng was instrumental in securing \$175,000 in grants to modernize the school district's equipment, including the purchase of a food truck to maximize service locations and serve as a contingency to ensure that production and service would not be interrupted in the event of disasters, utility disruptions or construction.

Her dedication to school nutrition is also exhibited by her involvement with the School Nutrition Association at the local and state level where Teng had served as the Southern California President, the Legislative Chair, and in numerous other positions

Teng's commitment to child nutrition extends well beyond the cafeteria and into the community. She spearheaded a community health fair that encompassed child health and safety in addition to nutrition. She is a member of the Food Safety Advisory Council for the Orange County Health Care Agency where she provides valuable input on health codes promoting food safety and sanitation. Teng's vision to educate children about nutrition also expanded to providing a parent newsletter and offering a series of classes for parents on nutrition, healthy recipes, and cooking when shopping on a budget. Teng's forward-thinking and active leadership in the field of child nutrition is indeed worthy of this year's Golden Director of the Year Award.

"I am so honored to receive the Golden Director of the Year Award for my life's work in school nutrition but I could not have done this without the dedication, talent and can do spirit of my team and our partners. They are phenomenal and met each new idea and challenge with enthusiasm and boundless energy."

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](http://www.fameawards.net). For event updates throughout the year, visit [www.fameawards.net](http://www.fameawards.net) or [www.facebook.com/fameawards](http://www.facebook.com/fameawards).

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