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2018 National FAME Awards Held in New Orleans

New Orleans, La., Jan. 21 – Basic American Foods, Schwan’s Food Service, Inc., Tyson Foods, Inc. sponsors of the 29th annual Foodservice Achievement Management Excellence (FAME) Awards, and leaders in the field of school nutrition, honored the winners of the 2018 FAME Awards at the Roosevelt Hotel Waldorf Astoria. At the sold-out event for industry and school nutrition members of the School Nutrition Association, a video presentation highlighted the winners’ exemplary school nutrition programs and professional achievements. Winners and their guests were treated to a Mardi Gras themed after party.

Lauren Teng, and winner of the evening’s most prestigious honor, the Golden Foodservice Director of the Year Award, thanked her team and partners for making her work possible. “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,” she said. Teng is the Administrator of Food and Nutrition Service for the Huntington Beach Union School District, Huntington Beach, Calif.

The Gertrude Applebaum lifetime achievement award was presented to Dorothy Caldwell for her six-decade career advancing and advocating for child nutrition. The award is presented to someone who has truly demonstrated a relentless commitment to the wellbeing of children everywhere. Said Caldwell, “Awards are wonderful and meaningful, but it was the work that was most rewarding.”

The Silver Leadership Award was presented to Christopher Burkhardt, SNS, Executive Director, Food and Nutrition Services, of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, Cleveland, Ohio, in recognition of his innovations in budgeting and management as well as his development of a mobile meals program to ensure students have access to nutritious food during the summer.

Kelly Schlein, MS, Nutrition Services Director, Richmond County School District, Augusta, Ga., was honored with the Silver Rising Star Award, which recognizes a food service director whose contributions make a marked difference in their school district’s nutrition program. Schlein’s efforts to revamp and rebrand the county’s school nutrition program saw a five percent increase in lunch participation district-



wide.

The Silver Spirit Award was presented to Karen Hallford, MS, RD, LD, Assistant Director of School Nutrition Program, Gwinnett County Public Schools, Gwinnett County, Ga., for her incorporation of local agriculture into the supply chain and her innovative approach to expanding student access to nutritious foods.

Sally Spiro, Child Nutrition Director, Lakeside Union School District, Lakeside, Calif., was presented the Silver Special Achievement Award for her achievements in modernizing the school nutrition program in her school district. Her resourceful management and organizational practices saw service transform from centrally distributed, frozen, precooked meals to from-scratch, on-site meal preparation by foodservice professionals.

Beth Mincemoyer Egan, M.Ed., RD, SNS, Senior Instructor at the Pennsylvania State University, received the Silver Friend of Child Nutrition Award for her passionate efforts in expanding continuing education foodservice professionals and promoting careers in child nutrition to her hospitality and nutrition students.

For 29 years, the FAME Awards have honored school nutrition professionals who tackle challenges in their school districts and communities with innovation, passion, and resourcefulness. For updates throughout the year, visit www.fameawards.net, or www.facebook.com/fameawards.

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