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Patricia Montague Named 2019 Silver Friend of Child Nutrition Award Winner

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md., Nov. 26, 2018 – School Nutrition Association (SNA) CEO Patricia Montague of National Harbor, Md., is the 2019 recipient of the Foodservice Achievement Management Excellence (FAME) Silver Friend of Child Nutrition Award. Montague will receive her award at the FAME award ceremony at the JW Marriott in Austin, Texas during the School Nutrition Association’s 2019 School Nutrition Industry Conference.

The Silver Friend of Child Nutrition Award is awarded to an advocate of school nutrition such as a principal, state association representative, or community leader who supports school nutrition beyond the scope of their normal professional duties.

“What an honor to be recognized alongside such a prestigious group of trendsetters, dedicated to making a difference in children’s lives each day through healthy school meals,” said Montague. “It is a privilege to work for this Association and serve school nutrition professionals nationwide in their mission to support the health and well-being of future generations.”

Montague’s 25 years working for the betterment of SNA demonstrate a commitment to child nutrition programs and a deep understanding of program needs and school nutrition professionals. After joining SNA in 1993 as a market research specialist, Montague quickly ascended to Director of Membership, and in 2002 was named Vice President of Operations and Administration. In 2004, she became SNA’s Chief Operating Officer. Since assuming the CEO mantle in 2012, Montague has overseen a significant growth as SNA expanded its member services and professional development opportunities. Membership is at its highest level in 20 years, and the Association continues to hit key advocacy goals.

As CEO, Montague focuses on strategic changes to SNA that prioritize both the long-term member needs as well as the Association’s fiscal health. These include changes such as a restructuring of SNA’s governance model, adopting clear governance and staff policies, transitioning to staff-led legislative and regulatory advocacy, and developing state affiliation agreements that enhance longstanding relationships. Montague’s leadership at SNA led the Association to closing in on the 60,000 membership goal, conference registration numbers that meet or exceed the five-year average, increased industry support, and high employee retention rates. In helping SNA achieve these goals, Montague positioned the Association to assist its members in their ultimate



mission – to preserve and strengthen a network of school nutrition professionals who support the health and wellbeing of children across the nation.

For 30 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 2019 FAME Awards ceremony event is scheduled for January 13, 2019 at the JW Marriott Austin, Austin, Texas, site of the School Nutrition Association's (SNA) 2019 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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