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Alyssia Wright Named 2019 Silver Leadership Award Winner

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md., Nov. 26, 2018 – Alyssia Wright, Ed.S., Executive Director of School Nutrition, Fulton County Schools, Atlanta, Ga., is the 2019 recipient of the Foodservice Achievement Management Excellence (FAME) Silver Leadership Award. Wright will receive her award at the FAME award ceremony at the JW Marriott in Austin, Texas during the School Nutrition Association’s (SNA) 2019 School Nutrition Industry Conference. The Silver Leadership Award is awarded to a director who demonstrates outstanding leadership, dedication, fiscal achievement, and innovation in menuing and merchandising.

“Being selected for the 2019 Silver Leadership Award is such an extreme honor,” said Wright. “To be recognized for the accomplishments of what is done daily with passion and dedication is truly humbling. I believe I have the best team that is equally passionate and takes pride in bringing the best experience to our students every day.”

The Fulton County School Nutrition Program has remained financially stable during Alyssia’s entire tenure as Executive Director. Through Alyssia’s vision and leadership, Fulton County Schools entered into a joint Request for Proposal (RFP) for grocery and produce contracts with a neighboring school district. By entering into a collaborative procurement process, the district qualified for better pricing with increased volume of products and competition between distributors. Alyssia also increased the district’s enrollment into the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), with two schools participating in CEP in school year 2014-2015, growing to 27 schools participating in CEP in school year 2016-2017. With measures from Spring of 2016, the schools participating in CEP had increased meal counts by 9% compared to the previous year meal counts.

In addition to the recognition she received for her cost-saving strategies, Wright’s colleagues applaud her management and communication style with Fulton County’s 760 foodservice employees. By emphasizing professional development, designating clear lines of communication and feedback, and the establishment of key performance indicators, Wright ensures uniformity in assessing employees and the efficiency of school nutrition management. Alyssia is a dedicated member of the national School Nutrition Association (SNA), Georgia School Nutrition Association, and local district chapter of the School Nutrition Association. In the Summer of 2018 Alyssia was selected to co-present at the Annual National Conference Education Session – A Director’s Guide to SLAY the Administrative Review. The presentation was named a “Best of #ANC2018” presentation, and selected for SNA’s featured Webinar Wednesdays® in October 2018.



Alyssia Wright provides a creative vision of innovative, customer-focused menu concepts and creates a school nutrition program environment to support effective implementation of menus. In 2014, branded menu concepts were implemented including daily Build-a-Bowl recipes modeled after popular restaurants, Classic entrees including daily student favorites such as fresh baked personal pan pizzas, On-A-Roll entrees including daily fresh subs, and Grab-and-Go entrees including freshly made salads and wraps. By offering an assortment of choices daily, students are better able to find something they enjoy. As a recognized leader in Farm to School, Fulton County School Nutrition was honored with the 2018 Georgia Grown System of Distinction Award, an honor designed to recognize the school nutrition directors and their schools for their leadership in developing superior farm to school programs on the state and national level. In 2016, Alyssia launched the district's first district wide student food show, titled the Student Choice Food Challenge. The Student Choice Food Challenge invites over 100 students across the district representative of Elementary, Middle and High Schools to taste test 10 new recipes. Based on student feedback, successful recipes are selected to be added to the school menus.

In 2013, Alyssia Wright fostered a partnership with Action Ministries, a local faith-based organization, to establish a novel summer meal delivery system, as part of Seamless Summer Feeding, to feed the students in the community during summer months when school is not in session. While the Fulton County School Nutrition Program planned and prepared summer menus, Action Ministries delivered the meals to children in the community. The success of Fulton's summer meal program has been recognized by 2016 and 2017 Turnip the Beet Silver Level Awards, and the 2017 Georgia Best Practice Award for Summer Food Service Program.

Alyssia's commitment to the school nutrition program and profession is demonstrated in the many awards accomplished under her leadership: six USDA Best Practice Awards, 14 Georgia Best Practice Awards, Georgia Department of Agriculture's Annual Golden Radish Award since 2013, including 2x Platinum Level, and 2013-2014 American Association of School Administrators Breakfast Grant.

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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