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Scott Richardson Named 2019 Silver Rising Star Award Winner

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md., Nov. 26, 2018 – Scott Richardson, Nutrition and Food Services Director of the Warren County School System School, Warrenton, Ga., is the 2019 recipient of the Foodservice Achievement Management Excellence (FAME) Silver Rising Star Award. Richardson will receive his 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 Rising Star Award is awarded to a food service director whose contributions make a marked difference in their school district’s nutrition program.

“I am very honored and humbled to be receiving this prestigious award. As a nutrition director and a vocational director, I am committed to the nutritional and vocational education of the students of Warren County where at the same time bringing the freshest, and most nutritious food that is locally grown,” said Richardson. “Winning this award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the employees, teaching faculty, and community partners of the Warren County Schools Farm to Table program. Since taking on the roll of Nutrition Director, I have sought ways to decrease costs, improve participation, and teach students about the importance of good nutrition while at the same time provide real world job skills in Agra-business; our county's major industry.”

During his time as Nutrition and Food services Director, Richardson turned around an indebted school nutrition program in a county with 610 students by investing in higher-quality ingredients, increasing participation, and reducing cost. By obtaining a grant to acquire a breakfast cart, Richardson initiated a Second Chance Breakfast model, which, over a two-year period, increased breakfast participation in Warren County schools to 82%.

Increasing student and family nutritional awareness is a top priority for Richardson. In designing the Kids Cook! nutrition curriculum, he teaches students about proper nutrition and good eating habits, and how to make nutritious foods and snacks without using a stove. After the first year of implementation, the 4-H program of Warren County approached Richardson and formed a partnership. As a result of the partnership, general education teachers are putting more nutrition education into their science, math, and English programs.

Richardson is credited with adopting a Farm to School program for Warren County schools. In addition to his role as the Food Service Director, Richardson is also the



CTE/Vocational Director. He started a garden program for his students to gain lab experience in agriculture. Richardson created a partnership with the Food Nutrition program to use what was grown in the CTE garden. After one year of experimentation by the Agriculture students as to best practices in growing different varieties of produce, Mr. Richardson partnered with the Kids Cook! classes and encouraged elementary school classes to learn where their food came from. The students helped the high school students plant, care for, and harvest the crops. Salad consumption increased 200 percent across grade levels that participated in the initial partnership. In the three year period since its inception, the Farm to School program has saved the School Nutrition program over \$10,000, tripled the student consumption of fresh vegetables, and established a three-acre production farm and vineyard on school property which Richardson hopes will allow the school to become self-sufficient in produce production.

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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