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CONTACT: Dana Clerkin
(703) 477-4172
dpclerkinllc@gmail.com

2019 FAME Awards Held in Austin

AUSTIN, TEXAS, Jan. 13, 2019 – Basic American Foods, the sponsor of the 30th annual Foodservice Achievement Management Excellence (FAME) Awards honored the 2019 National FAME Award winners at a ceremony at the JW Marriott. The ceremony highlighted the winners’ exemplary and innovative school nutrition programs and professional accomplishments.

School Nutrition Services Director Kevin Ponce, of Oklahoma City Public Schools, Oklahoma City, Okla. received the National FAME Awards most prestigious honor, the Golden School Foodservice Director of the Year Award. Ponce was the recipient of the Silver Leadership Award in 2017. “I’m honored, humbled, and blessed being selected as the 2019 FAME Golden Director of the Year,” said Ponce. “It’s not about winning an award. It means a recognition of teamwork in moving forward, as a district, in a positive direction even though we face many challenges along the way. I’m so thankful to work with a great team of school nutrition professionals. When voices and inclusion happens, when empowerment and trusts are exchanged, as a TEAM, customer service improves and confidence skyrockets to serve our children and community the best we can.”

The Silver Leadership Award was awarded to Alyssia Wright, Executive Director, Fulton County Schools, Atlanta, Ga. in recognition of her cost-saving strategies, professional development initiatives, and successful summer meal program.

Amanda Musick, Program Manager of Marketing and Grants, Pasco County Food & Nutrition Services, Land O’Lakes, Fla. was awarded the Silver Spirit Award in recognition of her development of innovative programs such as a Breakfast in the Classroom, implemented in 32 schools, which increased revenues significantly. Her hard work also yielded \$615,000 in grants for her school district.

The Silver Special Achievement Award went to Carrie Woodruff, Food Service Director, Lima City Schools, Lima, Ohio in recognition of her achievements in a smaller school district. Woodruff is recognized for her successful fiscal management of the school food program and the partnerships she formed in her community to increase participation in the summer food program.

The Silver Rising Star Award went to Scott Richardson, Nutrition and Food Services Director, Warren County Board of Education, Augusta, Ga. Richardson is credited with improving the ingredients in his schools’ foods and increasing breakfast participation to 82 percent, forming a partnership with 4-H that saw nutrition education incorporated



into the general education curriculum, and the creation of a gardening program that engaged students in agricultural education.

Patricia Montague, Chief Executive Officer, School Nutrition Association, National Harbor, Md., received the Silver Friend of Child Nutrition. 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.

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).

For event updates throughout the year, visit www.fameawards.net or www.facebook.com/fameawards.

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