



## **School Nutrition Professionals Gather Ahead of New School Year** *600+ are attending the conference for education, networking, food show*

**St. Cloud, MN (August 3, 2022)** – From August 7 - 10, 2022 approximately 600 school nutrition professionals will gather at Minnesota School Nutrition Association's (MSNA) 65th Annual Conference in preparation for another return to school with a lot of uncertainty including supply chain and staffing shortages. The Conference, held at the River's Edge Convention center in St. Cloud, features networking opportunities, education sessions, and a food show with a look at new products and equipment available for nutrition programs.

This year's keynote speakers include Kat Perkins, former contestant on NBC's hit show "The Voice" and Meteorologist Ian Leonard from Fox 9 in Minneapolis.

The MSNA Annual Conference provides an opportunity for school nutrition professionals from across the state to discuss best practices and attend educational sessions to assist them in effectively operating school meal programs. For a third year in a row, school nutrition professionals are facing challenges related to the ongoing pandemic. Staffing concerns, higher priced commodities and the changes in nutrition waivers are some of the top issues on the minds of school nutrition professionals.

"As school nutrition professionals, we know our first priority is to provide nutritious and balanced meals to the children of Minnesota. These last two school years have shown us we can rise above the challenges placed in front of us. Studies prove what we know, children who receive healthy meals at school receive the fuel they need to succeed," said Carrie Frank, Minnesota School Nutrition Association president.

The Annual Conference provides insight on trends and challenges facing school nutrition programs statewide.

### **About the Minnesota School Nutrition Association:**

The Minnesota School Nutrition Association (MSNA), founded in 1956 as a state-wide association with local chapters, is a non-profit association of 3,000 members who work to ensure that all children have access to healthy meals and nutrition education in Minnesota. For more information about MSNA and upcoming events, please visit [www.mnsna.org](http://www.mnsna.org).