

Warm greetings to my fellow MSNA colleagues! I have been given the fantastic opportunity to serve as the Nutrition Chair for the next 2 years.

Wow! This is the start of something extraordinary and bigger than I anticipated. This is my 8<sup>th</sup> year in school nutrition and I am currently working as a Site Supervisor at Johnsville elementary in the Anoka Hennepin School District. I live with my family in New Brighton.

My school nutrition journey began as a way for me to have summers and other non-school days off with my children; Eva 16, Jeovanni 13, Julissa 8 and our diva dog Gracie 2 to save money on childcare. I left my 8 to 5 office job and started working as a cashier at a Catholic K-8 school and quickly knew I wanted to be more and do more with school nutrition.

I felt as though I hit the jackpot and now my life and newfound career had purpose. The next few years I worked hard to move up and within 2 and a half years, made it as a head cook/kitchen manager.

This became my passion and I have spent the last 8 years involved in any way I possibly could, serving as President of my chapter, attending numerous LAC's in Washington D.C. I have even won a few scholarships to attend this amazing conference.

In 2019, I was honored to get the highest compliment ever receiving the Louise Sublette Award from School Nutrition Association as Regional and State Manager of the Year.

My latest and greatest achievement is graduating in May 2022 with my B.A. as an Individualized Studies major in School Nutrition Advocacy Management and a double minor: Human Resource Management and Community Organizing and Development.

I am truly grateful and excited at the opportunities and support my district has given me to be able to enrich my career in my new role with MSNA as an executive board member. I look forward to collaborating with other members and creating new and innovative ideas to help our organization be successful and keep moving forward to the wonderful future ahead.

Please reach out with any questions and how I can help you and your programs.

--Jess

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