

2020 Conference Theme: What Food Future?



When we gather in San Diego at the 2020 Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior (SNEB) annual conference, long-time members, new members, and

potential members will foster and strengthen our relationships, while we chart the course for the future of nutrition education. Charting the future of nutrition education is more important than ever because food is at the core of wicked problems related to ecological sustainability, racial and social equity, and personal health.

ABOUT THE THEME

In 1980, Dr. Joan Dye Gussow said, "Teaching about food and nutrition is the most important educational activity of a society."¹ Forty years later, we are broadening our focus to address today's critical food system and social justice issues in addition to promoting public health. Our planet is in crisis. Soil degradation, water scarcity and pollution, severe weather, biodiversity loss, and climate change are no longer future possibilities. They are upon us.² Additionally, too much of our food supply promotes diseases such as type two diabetes that reduce quality of life and increase health care costs, and it is the poor and people of color who are afflicted most severely.³ How we produce our food is part of the problem but could be part of the solution. Switching to soil building, water saving, carbon sequestering regenerative agriculture and to diets with more

whole and plant-based foods, but fewer processed foods, improves food systems and public health.² Yet, we know food and nutrition is a politically charged subject, and our profession will have to confront entrenched power structures by taking on Big Food.¹ While taking on Big Food will not be easy, it is critical. This conference will imagine, and plan for how nutrition education, *rooted in food*, can move us to a new food future.

GET INVOLVED

The call for programs is open with a due date of October 4, 2019. And the first deadline to submit an abstract is January 20, 2020. The details for both program proposals and abstracts are online at www.sneb.org/2020.

As you think about the contribution you will make to the 2020 conference, I invite you to sit back and imagine a new food future. Imagine schools with gardening, cooking, and scratch-cooked school meals as a matter of course. Imagine government policies that support farmers to transition to grow a wide diversity of foods. Imagine farmers capturing their fair share of every food dollar and farm workers making a livable wage and having a safe workplace, because nutrition education has built awareness and demand for justice for everyone who works in the food system. Imagine nutrition educators advocating for food supply where everyone can make half their plate fruits and vegetables, which is not possible now.⁴ Imagine all people becoming food citizens who stand up for all communities having access to "good food." With those images in the front of your mind, envision how

you can assure that nutrition education, *rooted in food*, plants the seeds to grow this future. The Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior can and should play a key role in answering the question, *What Food Future?*

SPREAD THE WORD

Mark your calendars for San Diego, July 19–21, 2020, and encourage your colleagues to attend, especially those working in food and nutrition who are pondering the question, "What food future?" and the intersectionality of ecological sustainability, equity, and health, but may not yet be acquainted with SNEB.

Pamela Koch, EdD, RD
SNEB President-Elect

REFERENCES

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2. Rose D, Heller MC, Roberto CA. Position of the Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior: the importance of including environmental sustainability in dietary guidance. *J Nutr Educ Behav.* 2018;51:3–15.
3. Gaskin DJ, Thorpe RJ Jr, McGinty EE, et al. Disparities in diabetes: the nexus of race, poverty, and place. *Am J Public Health.* 2014;104:2147–2155.
4. Mason-D'Croz D, Bogard JR, Sulser TB, Cenacchi N, Dunston S, Herrero M, Wiebe K. Gaps between fruit and vegetable production, demand, and recommended consumption at global and national levels: an integrated modelling study. *Lancet Planetary Health.* 2019;3: e318–e329.