PRESS RELEASE SAMPLE

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July 1, 2014

**ANFP Recognizes Award Winners for Dedication to Association, Industry**

St. Charles, IL – The Association of Nutrition & Foodservice Professionals (ANFP) recently presented awards to several individuals and corporate partners that demonstrate the highest level of dedication to the association and the foodservice industry. The honors were bestowed during ANFP’s National Leadership Conference, which took place in late June in Minneapolis, Minn. The ANFP Awards Program celebrates foodservice industry innovators, and applauds individuals who advance and support Certified Dietary Managers and the CDM credential.

ANFP’s annual Distinguished Service Award – now in its 19th year -- is the association’s highest honor and recognizes the greatest level of support to ANFP – both at a corporate partner level and a member level. **Reinhart Foodservice** was the corporate partner winner. Reinhart is a long-time supporter of ANFP, and this year was the first industry partner to become a founding corporate sponsor of the Nutrition & Foodservice Education Foundation. Reinhart’s leadership in funding has led to other significant partnerships across the corporate community, and ensures that the Foundation’s mission to elevate the visibility and value of the CDM will be realized. Accepting the award for Reinhart was **Diana Brokaw**, Director of Healthcare Sales.

The member winner of the Distinguished Service Award was **Vicky** **Kearney, CDM, CFPP.** Kearney has a strong history as an ANFP volunteer at both the state and national level. She has an authentic and deep-rooted belief in the foodservice industry, and has steered the Foundation to a renewed vision and strategic mission to elevate the CDM credential throughout the industry. Kearney is the Director of Food Management Programs with Armstrong Nutrition Management.

The Diamond Award was presented to **Minnesota ANFP**. 2013-2014 State President **Shona McCue, CDM, CFPP** accepted the award on behalf of the chapter. The coveted Diamond Award recognizes one ANFP state chapter per year that exemplifies dedication to members through chapter initiatives and enthusiastic leadership.

The CDM of the Year Award went to **Thomas J. Schoenewald III, CDM, CFPP** of Hot Springs Memorial Hospital in Thermopolis, Wyo. Schoenewald recently won the Wyoming ANFP Chapter’s CDM of the Year Award. Among various volunteer roles, he is an active member of ANFP’s Legislative Committee and has formed a network with several state and national legislators with the goal of promoting the CDM credential and improving healthcare food service.

ANFP’s Leading Change Partnership Award went to **Creative Solutions in Healthcare** of Fort Worth, Texas. CEO **Gary Blake**, who believes that the dietary manager is at the forefront of his success in growing his business (60-plus nursing homes and assisted living facilities), received the award on his company’s behalf. Through financial and career support, the vision of the dietary program at Creative Solutions involves empowering the CDM to be a leader in the facility.

The Public Policy Leadership Award was presented to **The Honorable Tom Latham** (R-IA-03). In May 2013, Representative Latham of Iowa provided the springboard ANFP needed by introducing our proposed legislation -- the Safe Food for Seniors Act, H.R. 2181 -- into the 113th Congress. Long recognized for his concerns about healthcare issues, Representative Latham has been a staunch supporter of ANFP in its initiative to ensure quality health care for seniors since 2009.

**Larry Jackson, CDM, CFPP** of Georgia ANFP enthusiastically accepted the Public Policy & Advocacy Award in the member category. Jackson is an active ANFP leader at both the state and national level. He is a strong advocate of H.R. 2181 -- the Safe Food for Seniors Act -- and has been educating Georgia members on the importance of this bill, encouraging their participation in the grassroots campaign, and was recently instrumental in securing a cosponsor of the bill, a critical component to the success of the campaign.

**Jeanne Bagby, CDM, CFPP** of Tarzana Health & Rehabilitation Center in Tarzana, Calif. was selected for the Embrace Diversity Award. Bagby demonstrates the spirit of this award through daily leadership, fostering equality and inclusion. She has built relationships with many first-generation Americans at her facility by soliciting favorite family recipes that honor their cultural and ethnic traditions.

**Arthur Bretton, CDM, CFPP** was given the Excellence in Dining Award. Bretton works at Our Lady of Consolation Nursing & Rehabilitative Care Center in Merrick, N.Y., where he reorganized the department based on customer service as well as the physical dining areas. Bretton keeps his sense of humor while providing compassionate, dignified care for residents, respecting their culture and values, and connects daily with staff, residents, volunteers, and families.

**Lisa Votapka, CDM, CFPP** was presented with the Institute Alumni LEAD Award. Votapka works for Decatur Health Systems in Oberlin, Kan. Votapka is a graduate of ANFP’s Leadership Institute, a multi-day education program that takes participants from managers to leaders. Votapka has implemented the four leadership pillars of the program in her daily life, and her personal action plan has led her to become a Kansas ANFP leader, a Safe Food for Seniors advocate, and more.

**Amy Wees, MBA, RD, LD** was presented with the Model of Commitment Leadership Award. Wees is the Vice President of Nutritional Services for Creative Solutions and has been a mentor, advocate, preceptor, and strong supporter for CDMs. She alone has mentored more than 40 people who have successfully earned the CDM credential.

Congratulations to ANFP’s 2014 award winners!

*To obtain more information on the award recipients or to request photos, please contact ANFP Director of Leadership Kate Dockins, CAE at* *kdockins@ANFPonline.org* *or call (800) 323-1908.*

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