



NFEF Announces 2026 Foodservice Department of the Year Award Recipient

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St. Charles, IL – The Nutrition & Foodservice Education Foundation (NFEF), the philanthropic arm of the Association of Nutrition & Foodservice Professionals (ANFP), has announced the recipient of the 2026 Foodservice Department of the Year Award.

The Foodservice Department at Odessa Memorial Healthcare Center exemplifies a highly coordinated and collaborative team environment where clear communication, shared accountability, and cross-functional cooperation are integral to daily operations. Staff consistently communicate across shifts and roles to ensure continuity of service, accurate diet implementation, and timely resolution of challenges. Information—including menu updates, diet modifications, supply concerns, and patient needs—is shared promptly and effectively, minimizing errors and preventing disruptions. Team members demonstrate a strong commitment to supporting one another beyond their defined responsibilities. During periods of increased demand, staffing shortages, or unexpected challenges, staff seamlessly adjust roles and workflows to maintain service standards without compromising food safety or patient satisfaction. This adaptability ensures that each function operates as part of a unified system rather than in isolation. The department fosters a culture rooted in respect, reliability, and ownership. Employees understand the impact of their individual contributions on the broader operation, which strengthens accountability and instills pride in collective success.

To learn more about Odessa Memorial Healthcare Center, click [HERE](#).

About Odessa Memorial Healthcare Center

Odessa Memorial Healthcare Center is a critical access hospital dedicated to providing essential healthcare services to its community.

Learn more about NFEF Awards criteria [HERE](#).

About NFEF

The Nutrition & Foodservice Education Foundation (NFEF) was originally founded in 1994, as the Dietary Managers Association (DMA) Foundation. It was re-configured as a part of the DMA's re-branding and name change to the Association of Nutrition & Foodservice Professionals (ANFP) in 2012. NFEF engages in innovative research, education, and charitable causes that promote the vital role of the Certified Dietary Manager, Certified Food Protection Professional as the expert in the profession of foodservice management and food safety. NFEF supports the goals of ANFP and works to strengthen the overall nutrition and foodservice profession. As ANFP's philanthropic arm, the Foundation is organized to advance the foodservice and nutrition profession to stay ahead of rapid change by fostering innovative thinking, cutting-edge research, and new ideas. The Foundation's highest priority is research and education for the future.