

2024 Noteworthy Practice Honorees
Noteworthy Practice Category: *Preceptor Recruitment and Recognition*

University of Saint Joseph Dietetic Internship
Michelle MacKenzie, MS, RDN, CDN

The University of Saint Joseph Dietetic Internship has implemented a Clinical Case Study Day. Interns select a patient from their clinical rotation that they would like to follow in provision of nutritional care, and then present to our faculty, staff, and preceptors via Blackboard Collaborate at the end of the fall semester. The patients are not identified, only with initials to preserve their anonymity. Interns collect all background data including medical and nutrition history, conduct research on their disease state, follow their progress and response to nutrition interventions, and with preceptor support, devise a nutrition care plan for the patient. Following the assignment outline, interns will devise a short PowerPoint and will present first to their assigned intern “mentor” who will provide written and verbal feedback to them for any needed revisions prior to presentation day. Mentoring each other has shown to be a very valuable experience for both the mentor and mentee. Interns will also complete an 8–10-page written paper on their case study, both of which need an 80% or more to meet project expectations. On the day of presentation, interns will present their case study anonymously, via slides live, on Collaborate to all registered preceptors that wish to attend to earn pre-approved continuing education credits through CDR. Participants have the opportunity to ask questions to the interns in real time and then fill out a brief attendance form with suggestions for program improvements for the following year. CEU forms are provided for all attendees by the director within 2 weeks of submission. This has been a well-attended event and a nice way to give back to our preceptors as well as recruit new preceptors.

The objectives of this noteworthy practice are:

1. To provide a free continuing education opportunity to our volunteer preceptors to show appreciation of their time and expertise in educating our dietetic interns.
2. To build upon intern research and presentation skills as well as confidence in contributing to a valuable continuing education project.
3. To create a valuable mentoring opportunity for interns in meeting CRDN 5.7.

Twenty preceptors participated in the continuing education session, and 80% of the total number of attendees watched all presentations. The total number of credits provided was 63 which is expected to be significantly more when we have an expected larger class this year. The feedback was very positive, and all 20 participants reported on a survey that the content was interesting and had no recommendations for the future sessions.

The outcome was met in that we had good preceptor participation in the case study live session and were able to provide free CEU’s to attendees as a way of giving back. Interns reported that they felt the mentoring was very valuable, both to provide the mentoring and to receive it. Interns had a great sense of accomplishment following the presentations and built their confidence while building upon a number of ACEND competencies.

A goal of our program is to prepare graduates for successful entry into the field of dietetics. The processes the interns take in completion of this project, prepare them to present evidence-based nutrition to a group of peers, welcoming critique and questions and gaining confidence in their

knowledge as well as their mentoring skills. Other CRDN's that the project support include the following: CRDNs: 1.2, 1.5, 2.4, 2.9, 3.1, 3.2, 3.7, 3.8, 3.12.

The outcomes of the noteworthy practice in terms of preceptor interest and participation was integral in preparing our interns in terms of having an educated audience, critique, mentoring and overall support in attendance. Knowing that they had to carefully prepare, research, and polish their presentation was a valuable experience for them in preparing for successful entry into the field of dietetics, where they will be identified as the nutrition experts and expected to provide and speak to their evidence-based nutrition interventions.

Milwaukee Area Technical College Diet Technician Program
Heidi Katte, MS, RDN, CD, FAND

The Milwaukee Area Technical College Diet Technician Program has implemented a Preceptor Appreciation event. Preceptors take their time with students to share their time and talents and deserve to be recognized. The purpose of this Preceptor Appreciation Luncheon is to recognize and appreciate their work. The event has been held for two years.

The objectives of this noteworthy practice are:

- To celebrate the Preceptors with a beautiful lunch planned, prepared and produced by first year food service management students. The first-year students have the opportunity to network and meet with future potential preceptors as well as employers.
- To celebrate soon to be graduates by having them receive their dietetics pin from their preceptor symbolizing their acceptance into our field of nutrition and dietetics.

The Preceptors receive a yellow rose symbolizing friendship as well as the ACEND Preceptor Appreciation Certificate from their field experience student. The first year of the event had five students and three attended with their preceptor. Two of these students have returned and are functioning as Preceptors for our program. The second year had seven students attending with their preceptors. The Preceptors, students and guests offer positive feedback of the accomplishments and the recognition the event offers. In addition, college administration attends and participates in the celebration of achievement. The second year, the program Dean invited a local employer of a 500+ bed hospital to attend to network and encourage employment in food and nutrition at their facility. Two students already have positions with this employer and one student is working through promotion into a new role within the hospital.

The project supports CRDN 5.7 which is "Identify and articulate the value of precepting". This event highlights the importance of fostering relationships in our field. The future success in today's world is not AI, knowledge and expertise, but rather relationships. As many modern day philosopher's note it is the organization's mission, vision and values that dictate its success. And these values are the framework and foundation for its culture. A culture built upon relationships will thrive and this is especially true in our healthcare industry. How we relate to our world and one another will determine our success. Events such as these help to build that foundation for relationship building to future success in our field of nutrition and dietetics.

Noteworthy Practice Category: *Activities, Practices, and/or Processes that Promote DEI*

Milwaukee Area Technical College Diet Technician Program

Heidi Katte, MS, RDN, CD, FAND

The Milwaukee Area Technical College Diet Technician Program uses an innovative approach to achieve the department's academic multiyear quality review process goal to increase students from diverse backgrounds was a response to the ACEND IDEA initiative and resulted in pursuing a WAND Diversity grant awarded 2023. An idea that stemmed from a conversation with a graduate of our program who while working at WIC with other women of color shared that they appreciated her as a fellow woman of color. She stated that the client's would say to her, "You get me. You know how 'we' eat, and you know what foods 'we' eat".

The objectives of this noteworthy practice are:

- To recruit and retain diverse students in nutrition and dietetics education so the field better matches the diversity of the community. The Diversity Dietetics Promoter (DDP) provides "You Get Me Gigs" to connect with people and share about ways to become a nutrition and dietetic professional.

The Diversity Dietetics Promoter completed four events focused on recruitment of new students and retention of existing students. The DDP hosted two diversity dietetics socials, networking events aimed to increase social connections among diverse students and professionals and attended two recruitment expos manning a dietetics table. From these events the DDP reached approximately 146 individuals, collected 20 emails, collected five survey responses, and circulated two flyers among three dietetics programs. The DDP responded to each outreach with further information and additional contacts for future interest follow up.

The program goal that this noteworthy practice addresses is: Increase diverse professionals into the field of nutrition and dietetics. With increased students from various backgrounds not only being recruited, but also supported throughout their educational careers they have increased likelihood of succeeding and then follow up to continue into the field of dietetics. One example of this is evidenced by this year's MATC's 2024 Commencement Outstanding Associate Degree Student's experience published in this MATC Newsroom article.