

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE – FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

NUTRITION CONNECTIONS
PEOPLE • PROGRAMS • SCIENCE • COMMUNITY



**FNS NATIONAL NUTRITION
EDUCATION CONFERENCE 2**

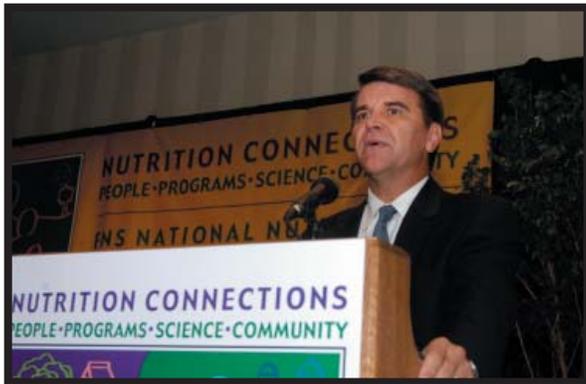
Conference Highlights and Proceedings

Collaborating For Success

September 12-14, 2005
Hyatt Regency Crystal City
Arlington, VA



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service



“We are here because we share more than the same commitment and goals. We need to strengthen collaboration.”

Charles F. Conner, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Arlington, VA, speaking at the FNS Second National Nutrition Education Conference, September 2005



The opinions expressed in this document by non-USDA conference participants are not necessarily those of the Department of Agriculture. Their remarks are reproduced in an edited format as given during the conference.

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See the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) National Nutrition Education Conference website, www.fns.usda.gov/nutritionconference, for complete slide shows for many of the above presentations.





I thank all those involved for making the U.S. Department of Agriculture's second national nutrition education conference (NNEC), "Nutrition Connections: People, Programs, Science, Community," such a great success. About 800 nutrition educators, program managers, and stakeholders from all across the country shared their expertise and strengthened their commitment to improve the eating and physical activity behaviors of Food and Nutrition Service program participants as well as all Americans.

We are facing major challenges in reducing diet-related health problems, such as overweight and obesity, in America. The NNEC provided a platform for us to become informed about initiatives across the country and around the world. We heard an international panel that shared approaches that Germany, China, and Israel are using to address the obesity problem and representatives from the food industry outlined their current and emerging strategies for preventing obesity and promoting wellness. Attendees enhanced their networking skills and learned to use innovative and interactive tools, such as the *MyPyramid* food guidance system and *Eat Smart. Play Hard.*TM materials. The new connections and the skill enhancement that occurred at this conference will lead to initiatives that inspire positive behavior change for a healthier lifestyle.

These proceedings extend the reach of the conference by sharing the expertise of speakers in nutrition science, nutrition education, and collaborative approaches with an expanded audience. We are committed to working across programs and using collaborative approaches in planning and implementing behavior-focused interventions to achieve our goals. These proceedings can be a useful resource to inform your work and to assist in advancing our shared goal of improving the health and well being of all Americans.

Eric M. Bost
Under Secretary
Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services





The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) supports nutrition assistance programs that reach one in five Americans each year. This provides us with a unique opportunity to have a positive impact on the eating and lifestyle behaviors of millions of Americans, particularly those who experience a disproportionate share of diet-related problems, including overweight and obesity. We can best realize this opportunity by strengthening the connections between FNS program staff at the Federal, State, and local levels. This second FNS national nutrition education conference allowed attendees to do just that—connect and network effectively with their colleagues—and also to learn about planning, conducting, and evaluating behavior-focused, evidence-based interventions that work to improve the nutrition status of low-income children and families.

These proceedings offer examples of successful approaches and initiatives that are improving the every day lives of our target populations and simultaneously strengthening the abilities and skills of FNS State and local staff to collaborate with their FNS partners. The presentations communicate FNS' vision for integrated, cross-program, and comprehensive nutrition education through SNAP and other mechanisms and describe new and emerging tools for implementing effective nutrition education interventions.

This conference allowed us all to take a giant step towards supporting community and nationwide efforts to promote the adoption of healthy eating and lifestyle behaviors that can lead to better health. We encourage you to use these proceedings as a resource and to share it with colleagues. Working together, we can improve the effectiveness of our combined nutrition education efforts.

Roberto Salazar
Administrator
Food and Nutrition Service