
Director's Conference 2021

Meet the Speakers





Suzanne Davidson

Suzanne is the Director of the Child Nutrition Unit. She joined the Child Nutrition Unit in 1992 as an Area Specialist, served as Associate Director of Program Operations/Financial Management from 2007-2013 and CNU Director since 2013. Prior to coming to the State Agency, she taught Home Economics and was the Child Nutrition Director in an Arkansas school district, from 1974-1992. Suzanne has a Bachelor of Science in Home Economics Education from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville and holds a lifetime Arkansas Teacher License.

Adrian Jesse

Adrian is a Registered Dietitian and the Northwest Area Specialist. Adrian joined the Child Nutrition Unit in early 2020. He has Bachelor of Science in Human Nutrition from the University of Illinois and completed his Dietetic Internship with the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.



Kristen Wooten

Kristen is a Registered Dietitian and the Charter Specialist for CNU. She has been with the Child Nutrition Unit since October 2020. Kristen completed her Bachelor of Science in Family and Consumer Science with a focus in nutrition as well as her Dietetic Internship and Masters of Science through the University of Central Arkansas.

Sheila Chastain

Sheila is the Associate Director of the Child Nutrition Unit at the Arkansas Department of Education. She has worked in various positions within the Child Nutrition Unit for the last 25 years. Ms. Chastain supervises a group of 14 professionals within the Child Nutrition Unit. Eleven (11) of those provide the training and technical assistance in all facets of program operation and federal compliance monitoring for the 250+ public school district's. Three (3) staff members are responsible for over \$190 million dollars in federal reimbursement to local child nutrition programs in Arkansas. Sheila holds credentials as a Registered Dietitian, a licensed teacher in Arkansas, and School Nutrition Specialist from SNA. She is a certified instructor and test proctor for ServSafe.



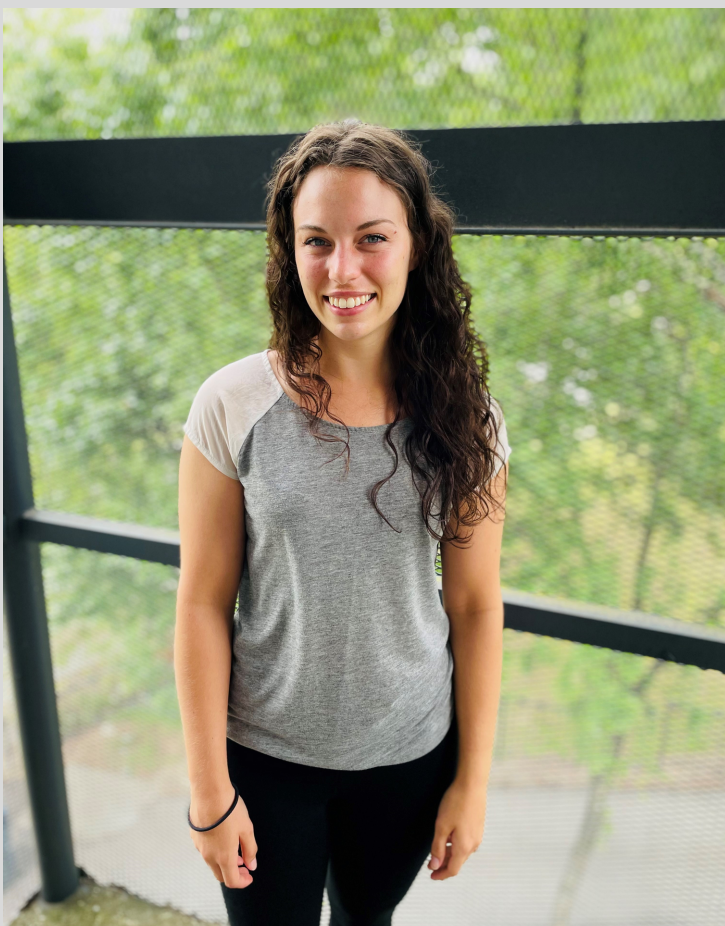
Krista Jackson



Krista is the Assistant Director of Program Support with the Division of Secondary and Elementary Education, Child Nutrition Unit at the Arkansas Department of Education. She received a BS in Family and Consumer Sciences from the University of Central Arkansas, and a MS in Nutrition and Food Management from the University of Central Oklahoma where she also completed her Dietetic Internship. Krista has worked at the local and state level over the past 11 years where she has grown her passion for Child Nutrition. She enjoys working closely with CNU staff and Directors to build strong Child Nutrition Programs across the state of Arkansas. Krista lives in Conway County with her 2 daughters and husband. They are proud residents of Morrilton, AR and enjoy volunteering at their local church and community.

Courtney Erick

Courtney is a Registered and Licensed Dietitian and the Southwest Area Specialist. She has been with the Child Nutrition Unit since 2018. Courtney obtained her Bachelor of Science in Family and Consumer Sciences with a dietetics specialization from Henderson State University. She completed her Dietetic Internship and Master of Professional Practice in Dietetics from Iowa State University.



Bailey Farnsworth

Bailey has been working as the Central Area Specialist since September 2020. She completed her undergrad in Nutrition and Dietetics from the University of Central Arkansas in 2017 and went on to complete her Dietetic Internship from UAMS in May of 2020. She officially became a Registered and Licensed Dietitian in July of 2020.

Nancy Dill

Nancy is a Registered Dietitian who came to Child Nutrition in 2009. She has a Bachelor of Science from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville; completed the Dietetic Internship at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, Arkansas; and a Master of Science from the University of Central Arkansas, Conway, Arkansas. She is a School Nutrition Specialist; a ServSafe Manager and certified ServSafe teacher and test proctor. She is also a former high school teacher.





Penny Howard

Penny is a Registered Dietitian and the South East Area Specialist. She has been with the Child Nutrition Unit since August 2019. She received her Bachelors of Nutrition from the University of Central Arkansas in 2018. She went on to complete her Dietetic Internship from the University of Central Arkansas in the summer of 2019.

Meredith Mannix

Meredith is a Registered Dietitian and the Northeast Central Area Specialist. She has been with the Child Nutrition Unit since January 2021. Meredith obtained her Bachelor of Science in Nutrition with an emphasis in Dietetics from Texas Woman's University. She completed her Dietetic Internship and Master of Science in Nutrition from University of Central Arkansas.



Mary Lee Dennis

Mary Lee began her career with the Child Nutrition Unit 4 years ago as the Central Area Specialist. She was promoted to Food Service Management Company and Charter School Supervisor in September of 2020. A few of her most notable contributions include managing the annual Federal Equipment Grant award for the State of Arkansas, providing procurement and financial management training on behalf of the Child Nutrition Unit, and collaborating in the published DESE G.U.I.D.E for Life. She received her master's degree in business administration with a minor in management.



Louann Griswood

Louann Griswood is our Accounting Coordinator for the Child Nutrition Unit. She also does the procurement reviews for the districts. She graduated from the University of Central Arkansas in 1974 with a BS in Business Administration. She is a master naturalist and is training for retirement by keeping herself busy with gardening adventures, crocheting, volunteering, and daily bible reading.





Donna Ratliff

Donna is the Grants Coordinator for the Child Nutrition Unit. She has been with the unit since 2004. Donna obtained her Bachelor of Science in Family and Consumer Sciences with an Education specialty from the University of Central Arkansas. She is currently a licensed teacher with the State of Arkansas.

Stephanie Alsbrook

Stephanie Alsbrook is the Associate Director of Program Administration in the Child Nutrition Unit. She has been with the unit for ten years and has served as the Assistant Director of Healthy Schools, the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Grant Coordinator, and an area specialist. Stephanie is a registered dietitian with a Master's Degree from the University of Central Arkansas.



Jerry Swope

Jerry Swope is the Northwest Area Specialist and has been with the Child Nutrition Unit for 43 years. He obtained his Bachelor of Education from the University of Central Arkansas. He the completed a Master of Education from South East Missouri State University.

Ronna Segraves

Ronna Segraves is a Registered and Licensed Dietitian and has been the Northeast Area Specialist since 2010. She obtained a Bachelor of Science from Northern Illinois University and a Master of Science from Texas Woman's University.

