

Member Spotlight

Dr. Glenna McCollum, MPH, RDN

Glenna McCollum currently serves as the 2013-2014 President of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Through her leadership with the Academy, Glenna has enjoyed the many networking opportunities at meetings and events across the nation and around the world where she represents our 76,000+ members as the food and nutrition experts and leaders. Dr. McCollum keeps busy as the Academy President. You can read about a typical week for her [here](#). Additionally, she serves on the board of [Chandler University](#) and is Vice President of Health and Nutrition for [PhycoBiosciences, Inc.](#)



Glenna grew up in Chandler, Arizona, where she watched her small rural town of 7,000 people explode to over 250,000 in just 40 years! She currently resides in Chandler, where she and her husband, Ben, raised their two children, Michael and Merc e. Glenna first became interested in nutrition when she took a nutrition class at Arizona State University. Sitting in a 500-seat lecture hall, she experienced an “ah-ha!” moment and declared her major in nutrition that same semester.

Glenna earned a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition & Dietetics as well as a Bachelor of Science in Public Health from Arizona State University. She earned a Masters of Public Health degree (MPH) from Loma Linda University in California, a Seventh-day Adventist University which emphasizes disease prevention and health promotion. She completed a six-month work experience, a pathway to becoming a registered dietitian which is no longer available for students. After earning her MPH, Glenna spent two years working in clinical dietetics before going into higher education as her way of working in “health promotion”. She served as the Director of Nutrition as well as Assistant Dean at Central Arizona College (CAC). Glenna notes that CAC used innovative technologies to deliver nutrition education nationwide which was quite revolutionary 20 years ago! Additionally, Glenna earned a Doctorate in Management and Organizational Leadership from the University of Phoenix. She is especially appreciative for the guidance and support that she received from mentors, colleagues and friends along the way.

Glenna joined the Public Health/Community Nutrition Practice Group (PHCNPG) to stay connected to the very important changes in the nation’s health care system and to help us all meet the Academy’s vision of *optimizing the nation’s health through food and nutrition*. Since she graduated with an MPH in the 1980s, Glenna has noticed a shift in the thinking from focusing on treatment of disease to health promotion and disease prevention. Today, Glenna looks forward to a renewed excitement that the Affordable Care Act brings as our nation begins to focus more on health promotion and disease prevention.

Glenna has been greatly involved with the Academy, serving as Chair of the Academy’s Board of Directors, as Speaker of the House of Delegates, and currently as the 2013-2014 President. Throughout her career, Glenna has been honored with several awards and recognitions. Through the Academy, Glenna has been honored with the Outstanding Educator of the Year Award and

the Outstanding Service Award, as well as the Outstanding Dietitian of the Year Award from the Arizona Dietetic Association. She has also received recognition for her leadership and service to her state and community, including the Outstanding Woman of Chandler Award from the Chandler Historical Society, the Community Service Award from the Statewide Leadership and Center for Rural Leadership, and the Arizona Best Practices in Education Award from the Arizona Commission for Post-Secondary Education.

In her free time, Glenna enjoys snow-skiing with her family, bike-riding, and racquetball. Above all, Glenna enjoys reading. She reads a variety of books, newspapers, journals, and magazines. Every year, she keeps a “top ten” list of favorite books. Check out [Glenna's 2014 top picks!](#) Among Glenna's favorite foods are vegetables. She says that, “nothing is as good and tasty as a steamed vegetable plate, or a hearty vegetable stew or soup, or a mixed green salad with a variety of fresh cut vegetables and lots of tomatoes!”

PHCNPG is proud of Glenna's work and appreciates her contributions to the Academy, public health nutrition, and our profession!

A message from Glenna to PHCNPG members:

*As I leave this year as President of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, I want to encourage all the members of PHCNPG with this: As a member-led organization, our collaborative leadership is vital to the future success of our profession. Like the century of leaders before us, what we do, what we say, the challenges we are willing to embrace, the risks we are willing to take, and the leadership we demonstrate together, will impact the health of our nation and determine the opportunities of our profession for generations to come. **Your leadership is crucial.** The voice you have and the example you set will help empower our members to be the food and nutrition leaders. During this tremendous time of change, we can move our profession forward by enhancing **C**ollaborations with strategic partners; developing **L**eaders at every level of our organization; moving quickly to embrace **I**nnovation and change; strengthening our internal core through **M**entorship, and demonstrating our ability to lead while maintaining a **B**alanced life. In other words, let's continue to **CLIMB** together! – Dr. Glenna McCollum, MPH, RDN*