

Public Health/Community Nutrition Practice Group

Member Spotlight

Marsha Spence, PhD, MPH, RDN, LDN

2014 PHCNPG Award for Excellence in Public Health/Community Nutrition

Marsha Spence is the Director of Public Health Nutrition and an Assistant Professor of Practice in the [Department of Nutrition at University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tennessee](#). In addition, Marsha is the Director of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau funded Public Health Nutrition Leadership Education and Training Program at the University of Tennessee. Her research focuses on school and community-based interventions to prevent childhood overweight/obesity, and to promote healthy environments, youth leadership, and advocacy development to improve school and community health environments. Her research on collaborative community nutrition-related needs assessments and assessing urban transportation routes to grocery stores was highlighted in a 2013 webinar hosted by the Public Health/Community Nutrition Practice Group (PHCNPG). [Click here](#) to learn more and view the webinar!



Marsha currently serves as President-elect of the [Association of Graduate Programs in Public Health Nutrition, Inc. \(AGPPHN\)](#). Through funding by AGPPHN, she led an expert panel on the revision *Strategies for Success: Curriculum Guide 3rd Edition*, the basis for graduate public health nutrition curricula which consists of knowledge and skill competency statements and experience guidelines, including goals and objectives for supervised practice experiences. She also currently serves as a member of the Expert Review Committee for the revision of the [Guidelines for Community Nutrition Supervised Experiences](#), representing the American Public Health Association, Food and Nutrition Section.

Marsha earned a Bachelor of Science in Human Ecology (Nutrition), a Master of Science degree in Nutrition and a Master of Public Health degree, as well as a doctorate in Human Ecology (Nutrition) from the University of Tennessee.

An active member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, American Public Health Association, and the Public Health/Community Nutrition Practice Group (PHCNPG), Marsha has received several awards and recognitions for her contributions to education and to the field of public health nutrition. In 2008, Marsha received the Outstanding Dietetics Educator Award from the Knoxville Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, and was recognized in 2009 as Innovative Faculty by the University of Tennessee's Innovative Technology Center. [Click here](#) to learn about how she incorporates blogging into a course curriculum! Most recently, Marsha was awarded the PHCNPG Award for Excellence in Public Health/Community Nutrition Practice. The award was presented at the Academy's annual [Food & Nutrition Conference & Expo™](#) (FNCE®).

PHCNPG is proud of Marsha's work and appreciates her passion for public health nutrition!