

Paola School District Nutrition Employee Recognized with Regional Award

(National Harbor, MD – April XX 2018) – The national, non-profit School Nutrition Association (SNA) has named Christiane Deatsch, from Paola High School in Paola Unified School District, KS, the Southwest regional *Employee of the Year*. The award recognizes the valuable contribution of school nutrition employees who exhibit a remarkable commitment to the school meal program and the students they serve.

As the head of the vegetable department in her school, Christiane Deatsch was instrumental in the creation of the Garden Bar, a design-your-own salad bar where students can choose from a variety of fresh vegetables, kidney beans, beets, peas and fresh and canned fruit.

Deatsch's humor and jokes have created a happy and comfortable environment for students and helped make the kitchen a pleasant place for her colleagues, according to school administrators. For Halloween, Deatsch combined her creativity and good-time attitude to convince all servers and cashiers to dress up as fairies. To the delight of students, she made special aprons and flowered headpieces for staff to wear.

Being fluent in German, she has helped foreign exchange students maneuver through the lunch line, making them feel welcome and at home in a new country. Always looking for ideas to improve how procedures are managed, Deatsch has attended the Kansas School Nutrition Association Annual Conference for the last seven years and registers for training sessions or equipment demonstrations when available. She is often the first to volunteer and loves to recruit other staff members for informational sessions as well.

A true team player, Deatsch volunteers to work special events, including Paola High School's Drama Department Dinner Theater. Always willing to lend a helping hand, she also makes her famous homemade cinnamon rolls to help raise funds for local bake sales.

"A member who not only loves her students, but takes such pride in her work, Christiane Deatsch is an ideal candidate for Employee of the Year," said SNA President Lynn Harvey, EdD, RDN, SNS. "Her energy, spirit and desire to constantly improve have been instrumental in providing students with high quality food and exceptional service."

The *Employee of the Year Award* was created to recognize outstanding school nutrition employees who influence the quality of school meals through customer service, an interest in young people, cooperation, work attendance, creativity, participation in professional development and their willingness to go above and beyond.

In July, Deatsch will be honored during the Red Carpet Awards Ceremony at the School Nutrition Association's Annual National Conference held in Las Vegas, Nevada.

About School Nutrition Association:

The School Nutrition Association (SNA) is a national, non-profit professional organization representing 57,000 school nutrition professionals across the country. Founded in 1946, SNA and its members are dedicated to making healthy school meals and nutrition education available to all students. For more information on school meals, visit www.SchoolNutrition.org/SchoolMeals.