

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
RECOGNITION**

2014 SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION ANNUAL AWARDS

August 18, 2014

Background Information:

The School Nutrition Association (SNA) is a nationally recognized association dedicated to improving the health and well-being of our nation's children by promoting excellence in school nutrition programs. The SNA awards program is a great opportunity to highlight the outstanding and important work of SNA members and state affiliates. Members and state associations are eligible for many awards and honors that recognize their achievements in school food service, leadership, membership recruitment and professional development. State, regional and national winners are recognized at SNA's Annual National Conference (ANC). State winners receive a plaque; regional winners receive a plaque, \$100, and a complimentary registration for the current year's ANC; and national winners are awarded a plaque and an all-expense paid trip to the following year's ANC.

Discussion:

2014 Maryland & Regional Louise Sublette Award of Leadership Excellence: Barbara Gostomski, Manager at Bel Air Middle School

The Louise Sublette Award of Leadership Excellence recognizes the importance of those employees closest to the school nutrition program – the managers – and is considered the highest honor a school nutrition manager can earn. The award is named in memory of Louise Sublette, a leader in school nutrition programs in Tennessee and in the School Nutrition Association. During her 43 years in the profession, she worked with many areas of food service and nutrition and emphasized that the success of school nutrition depends upon those professionals who work in school nutrition programs. With this award, SNA recognizes a person who has taken a special idea, developed it into a goal, and used that goal to help the school's nutrition program grow. By sharing these "success stories," good ideas can spread across the country and make school nutrition programs better.

Ms. Gostomski won the award for her work in promoting new lunch foods in her cafeteria by incorporating "Cook Smart" ideas. Cook Smart is a professional cooking class her staff participated in during the summer of 2013 and teaches staff how to prepare simple, healthy and delicious food for students. Cook Smart ideas keep things simple— simple healthy preparation techniques, simple ingredients together with simple equipment.

This is the second consecutive year a Harford County Public School Food and Nutrition employee has been awarded the Maryland and Mid-East Regional award.

2014 Maryland Heart of the Program Award: Ginny Vogt, Cook at Bel Air Middle School

This award was created to recognize outstanding school nutrition employees who work with the manager in daily operations in preparing and serving appetizing meals to children and exhibits an extraordinary commitment to the nutrition program. Recipients consistently influence the quality of school nutrition programs through outstanding customer service, interest in young people, cooperation, work attendance, creativity, their participation in professional growth and training opportunities and their willingness to “Go the Extra Mile” when necessary. These employees make the difference between an outstanding program and an average program.

Ms. Vogt proved to be the heart of her program by spearheading and volunteering at multiple training events and advancement opportunities in buildings throughout Harford County this past school year. Ginny worked in multiple different capacities, and her dedication to our students was above and beyond the normal call of duty.

2014 Maryland & Mid-East Regional Outstanding Director of the Year: Gary Childress

Gary Childress, supervisor of Food and Nutrition Services, was selected for the School Nutrition Association’s Outstanding Director of the Year Award for the state of Maryland and the Mideast Region. This is a prestigious award that recognizes the contributions of school nutrition directors who manage effective programs which are providing healthful, appetizing and nutritious meals to students. Mr. Childress was recognized at the SNA Annual National Conference in Boston, Massachusetts, July 13-16, 2014.

Superintendent’s Recommendation:

The Superintendent recommends the Board of Education of Harford County express its sincerest congratulations to Barbara Gostomski and Ginny Vogt of Bel Air Middle School and Gary Childress of the Food and Nutrition Office for having been recipients of School Nutrition Association awards.