

KATE GERWECK, MS, RD, LD

Nutrition Leader | Strategic Program Innovator | Champion for the Dietetics Workforce

Columbia, SC | kategerweck@gmail.com | 734-649-7291

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Bold, forward-thinking nutrition leader with 14+ years of progressive leadership across statewide systems, clinical settings, health policy, and large-scale grant programs. Expertise in workforce development, public health administration, regulatory compliance, nutrition program design, and cross-agency systems transformation.

Recognized for developing high-impact strategies that improve patient care, build workforce capacity, strengthen performance, and innovate service delivery. Adept at managing complex budgets, ensuring regulatory compliance, and driving organizational growth through data-driven decision-making and collaborative leadership.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Leadership & Team Development
- Workforce Strategy, Talent Acquisition & Retention
- Clinical Nutrition & Outpatient MNT Operations
- Medicare Billing & Compliance
- Statewide Program Design & Implementation
- Federal Fiscal Grant Management
- Strategic Planning & Organizational Change
- Data Analytics & Performance Measurement
- Stakeholder Engagement & Cross-Sector Partnerships
- Innovation in Nutrition Services & Practice Models

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

DIRECTOR OF NUTRITION PRACTICE AND SNAP EDUCATION

South Carolina Department of Public Health | 2022–Present

Division leader overseeing statewide nutrition programs, practice standards, and workforce strategy across South Carolina's public health systems.

Leadership & Strategic Impact

- Direct statewide nutrition programming, including the design, development, and implementation of evidence-based nutrition education, practice initiatives, and policy, systems, and environmental change strategies.
- Drove statewide Results-Based Accountability (RBA) transformation, developing and executing a strategic plan that increased grant deliverables by 15% from FY23 to FY24, strengthening performance culture and measurable outcomes.
- Lead South Carolina's nutrition workforce development strategy, including recruitment, retention, talent pipelines, student engagement, and training pathways for emerging and practicing dietitians.
- Manage the strategic, operational, and fiscal leadership of a multi-million-dollar federally funded program, ensuring alignment with USDA regulations, audit requirements, and organizational priorities.
- Build and sustain high-impact partnerships with hospitals, clinics, public health agencies, universities, and community organizations to expand reach and improve population health outcomes.
- Lead organizational change efforts to modernize nutrition practice and integrate innovative delivery models, digital education, and data-driven program evaluation.
- Serve as the state's primary expert in nutrition practice, public health nutrition, and the advancement of the dietetics workforce.

Systems Innovation & Workforce Infrastructure

- Redesigned and implemented South Carolina's first-ever bi-annual licensure renewal workforce data collection system, establishing a statewide infrastructure to capture workforce capacity, practice trends, shortages, and demographic data to support long-term strategic planning and advocacy.
- Developed new mentorship and workforce support structures to improve dietitian career pathways, retention, and professional growth across diverse practice settings.

CLINICAL DIETITIAN (INPATIENT & OUTPATIENT PRACTICE)

Medical University of South Carolina | 2016–2022

Delivered inpatient and outpatient medical nutrition therapy across acute care, chronic disease management, maternal and child health, and specialty clinics.

Responsibilities & Achievements

- Provided 6 years of inpatient and outpatient clinical nutrition care for NICU, neurology, GI, and renal patients, applying evidence-based MNT across diverse patient populations.
- Ensured private payor, Medicaid, Medicare-compliant documentation, coding, and billing for outpatient MNT to support accurate reimbursement and regulatory adherence.

- Developed screening tools to identify at-risk patients in food deserts, improving nutrition access and health outcomes.
- Expanded cardiac rehab nutrition programs, increasing referrals and securing additional RD staffing.
- Participated in clinical quality improvement initiatives impacting nutrition care processes and patient satisfaction.

RAINBOW REHABILITATION CENTERS

Dietitian (2012 – 2016)

- Managed nutrition programs for spinal cord and traumatic brain injury patients.
- Developed and implemented the facility's first structured nutrition monitoring system.

BOARD & LEADERSHIP ROLES

- Board Member, South Carolina Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (2018–Present)
 - Workforce Development Liaison
 - Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) Chair
 - Strategic Planning Co-Chair
- Taskforce Member, Commission on Dietetic Registration Workforce Demand & Capacity Taskforce (2024-present)
- Member, Association of State & Public Health Nutritionists
- Member, Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

EDUCATION

Master of Science in Dietetics

Bachelor of Science in Nutrition & Dietetics

CREDENTIALS

- Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN), CDR
- Licensed Dietitian (LD), South Carolina

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- EHR: Epic, Cerner, and similar platforms
- MNT Billing & Documentation Systems
- Data Analytics, Evaluation, & Reporting Platforms
- Federal Grant Management Systems
- Microsoft Office Suite, SharePoint

PRESENTATIONS & ADVOCACY

- *The Future of Dietetics: Workforce Trends, Predictions, and Career Impacts*
Food and Nutrition Conference and Expo (FNCE), Nashville, TN – October 2025
- *Building a Stronger Backbone: Innovative Workforce Development Strategies*
National WIC Association Training Conference, Las Vegas, NV – April 2025
- *Workforce Development in Public Health Nutrition*
SC WIC Conference – 2024
- *Statewide Best Practices for Food Access*
Governor's Council on Food Insecurity – 2023
- *Managing GI Disorders in Infants*
SC WIC State Conference – 2021
- *Pediatric Nutrition Assessment*
MUSC Student Nurse Practitioner Curriculum – 2021
- *Food for Thought: Brain Health*
Michigan Brain Injury Association Conference – 2014