



Nominee Bio Questions

1. Name & credentials: Kate Gerweck, MS, RD, LD
2. Current residence (city/town, state): Blythewood, SC
3. Education: BS Dietetics Michigan State University, MS/DI D'Youville College
4. Present position: South Carolina Department of Public Health Director of Nutrition Practice 2022-Present
5. Previous positions: SC Department of Public Health SNAP Education Program Manager 2022, Pediatric GI and Renal Dietitian MUSC Health 2018-2022, Neurology and Neurosurgery Dietitian MUSC Health 2016-18, Dietitian Manager Rainbow Rehabilitation Centers 2012-2016, LTC Dietitian Manor and Whitmore Lake 2011-2012
6. Professional activities (current):
 - **Collaboration with SC Universities** (Clemson University, Winthrop University, SC State University) **and SC Department of Education** to create dietetics education programs in high schools and paths to enrollment, including community nutrition programs and technical college pathways.
 - **Member of the Commission on Dietetic Registration's Workforce Demand and Capacity Task Force**, focusing on predicting future workforce needs at a national level.
 - **Workforce Development Liaison** on the SCAND Board, facilitating collaboration with SC AHEC and advocating for the inclusion of dietetic data in workforce planning.
 - **Public Policy Involvement**, including participation in the South Carolina Governor's Task Force on Nutrition Insecurity.
 - **Public Speaking and Advocacy** at SCAND Policy Day 2024 and at various conferences on workforce development and nutrition policy (National WIC Conference April 2025, FNCE October 2025.)
 - **Collaborative Projects** with SC non-profits like Wholespire and the Alliance for a Healthier SC to reduce food insecurity and improve access to fresh produce. SC Department of Social Services establishment of a Farm to ECE program.
7. Honors and awards: 2025 Directors Award for Achievement South Carolina Department of Public Health, Directors Appreciation Acknowledgement 2023 South Carolina Department of Public Health
8. Certifications: N/A



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9. Publications:

Sobbry, Kate,

"Food For Thoughts: Nutrition's role in proper brain development and cognitive function"
Rainbow Visions, 2013.

Sobbry, Kate M.

"Assessment of Cardiovascular Disease Risk in Firefighters." D'Youville College, 2011.

10. Statement of purpose:

As a Registered Dietitian with over 14 years of experience in clinical practice, public health, and executive leadership, I am deeply committed to advancing the nutrition and dietetics profession in South Carolina. I hold a master's degree in nutrition and Dietetics and began my career in clinical settings, including traumatic brain injury rehabilitation and pediatric gastroenterology and nephrology at the Medical University of South Carolina.

I currently serve as Director of Public Health Nutrition at the South Carolina Department of Public Health, where I oversee a \$1.4 million portfolio of federal nutrition programs and lead statewide efforts in workforce development, policy advancement, and community-based nutrition initiatives. My work includes establishing workforce standards for state-employed dietitians, advancing career ladders and competitive compensation structures, and building cross-sector partnerships with universities, technical colleges, and Area Health Education Centers to expand and strengthen the nutrition workforce.

As Workforce Development Liaison on the SCAND Board, I have led strategic collaborations with organizations such as SC AHEC, elevated dietetics within workforce planning efforts, and contributed nationally through service on the Commission on Dietetic Registration's Demand and Capacity Task Force. I am also actively engaged in advocacy, including presenting at SCAND Policy Day and participating in the Governor's Task Force on Food Insecurity.

If elected as President-Elect, my vision for SCAND is to position the Academy as a visible, influential leader in workforce development, policy, and professional sustainability. I aim to strengthen partnerships with healthcare systems, education and training institutions, and mission-aligned organizations; expand meaningful engagement for students and early-career professionals; and ensure SCAND proactively addresses workforce shortages, practice evolution, and member needs. My goal is for SCAND to be a forward-thinking organization that not only supports today's practitioners, but also



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builds a strong, diverse, and resilient dietetics workforce for the future of South Carolina.

11. Home address, phone, email: 455 Compass Trail, Blythewood, SC 29016

12. Work address, phone, email: 2100 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201