



OREGON
ACADEMY OF
NUTRITION AND DIETETICS

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Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

2024 Awards Recognition

Each year, the Oregon Academy actively solicits nominations for awards from our entire membership. All submitted nominations were considered.

The 2023-2024 committee included the Oregon Academy Awards Chair, President, President-elect, and a Past President.

We are pleased to present this year's recipients to you. These leaders exemplify the leadership required to advance our work as nutrition and dietetics professionals. Their skills and abilities are exceptional, and their service is commendable.

The Oregon Academy would like to thank everyone who nominated a peer or colleague this year.

Please consider nominating someone for recognition in 2024. Look for announcements on our website and via email in November and December 2023.

Thank you!

Jessica Robertson, RDN
Awards Chair

Oregon Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Outstanding Dietitian of the Year

Purpose

The Outstanding Dietitian Award is the highest honor given by the Oregon Academy. The purpose of the ODY award is to recognize the accomplishments of dietitians in the state of Oregon. This award will be reserved for special citations given only for notable leadership, ability and service. One award may be presented each year.

Award criteria

- Member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics for a minimum of 8 years
- Active participation in the district, state, or national association for at least 5 years.
- Has served as an outstanding role model of professionalism and as a source of inspiration to others in dietetics.
- Has demonstrated leaderships, e.g., in legislation, research, education, clinical dietetics, career guidance, public relations, community nutrition, etc. in the association or employment.
- Age requirement on May 1, 2024, over 35 years of age.

Past Award of Merit/Outstanding Dietitian of the Year Recipients

1983	Virginia Harger	2004	Kimra Warren Hawk
1984	Elisabeth Yearick	2005	Anne Goetze
1985	Eleanor Latterell	2006	Mary Cluskey
1986	Betty Johnson	2007	Carolyn Raab
1987	JoAnne Magee-Marshall	2008	Pat Fischer
1988	Kathy Dobyms	2009	Melinda M. Manore
1989	Elaine Mackie	2010	Martha P. McMurry
1990	Sonja Connor	2011	Terese Scollard
1991	Cheryl Bittle	2012	Maureen McCarthy
1992	Jessie Pavlinac	2013	Connie Liakos Evers
1993	Marjorie Norman	2014	Nancy Becker
1994	Madelyn Koontz	2015	Garrett Berdan
1995	Alyce Puppe-Waverly	2016	Sarah McCormick
1996	Sabine Artaud-Wild	2017	Diane Stadler
1997	Ann Messersmith	2018	Jenny Jackson
1998	Marie Banfe	2019	Amy Floreen
1999	Kelly Streit	2020	Katie Dodd
2000	Peggy Paul	2021	Amy Frasier
2001	Brenda Ponichtera	2022	Whitney Ellersick
		2023	Meredith Kleinhenz

Outstanding Dietitian of the Year
Victoria Warren-Mears, PhD, RDN, FAND



Dr. Victoria Warren-Mears holds a bachelor's and master's degree in home economics from Washington State University and a doctorate in nutrition sciences from the University of Washington. She also completed a certificate of investigation in human subjects at Oregon Health & Science University. For the last 17 ½ years she has had the honor and privilege of serving the 43 federally recognized tribes of Idaho, Oregon and Washington as the Director of the Northwest Tribal Epidemiology Center.

My most important recent work achievements have been guided by Tribal leadership and mentors. Last year a resolution was passed that was initiated locally and subsequently was passed at the National Congress of American Indians to request colleges and universities to provide spaces to American Indian and Alaska Native students following pathways to becoming Dietetic Technicians, Registered or Registered Dietitians Nutritionists. This resolution was proposed by a group of 5 dietitians who are serving as Tribal Health Directors. It is an important tool to advance diversity in dietetics for

American Indian and Alaska Native students. Through another resolution we asked Indian Health Service to include Dietitian Nutritionists on their survey of health professional needs, administered to all Tribes throughout the nation. Previously the survey did not include nutrition professionals and other ancillary health care professionals, thus underrepresenting the true need at Tribes for DTR and RDN. Victoria is fortunate to have amazing mentors throughout her time as a student and early career dietitian. They encouraged her to be involved in volunteering for the profession and take her practice to the highest level possible.

Victoria has been the President of the Academies of Nutrition and Dietetics in both Washington and Oregon states, and most recently has served as the Chair of the Public Health and Community Nutrition Practice Group of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. She also served on legislative and policy committees in both states. Policy advocacy has long been an area of volunteering for Victoria. Most recently serving on the Academy's Farm Bill Workgroup.

Other highlights have been serving as a mentor to students at WSU and UW, and as an educator at Oregon Health & Science University and the University of Portland. Working with dietitians and nurses in training has been among the most rewarding aspects of my career.

In addition to professional volunteering, Victoria has been an active volunteer at her adult son's schools, including volunteering on auctions and events from elementary school until his high school graduation. Meredith is a registered dietitian nutritionist at Providence ElderPlace and a Board Certified Specialist in Gerontological Nutrition since 2014.

Recognized Young Dietitian of the Year

The Recognized Young Dietitian of the year must be 35 years old or younger and meet the following criteria:

- Be a national Academy & Oregon Academy member
- Demonstrate active participation in national, state or district dietetic association activities
- Demonstrate concern for the promotion of the optimal health and nutrition status of the population
- Demonstrate leadership

Past Recognized Young Dietitian of the Year Recipients:

1974	Cheryl Bittle & Sue Piasias	1999	Kevin Monti & Patricia Rose
1975	Brenda Ponichtera	2000	Catherine Bennett Dunster
1976	Jan Daoust & Carol Linn	2001	Colleen Freeh Flattum
1977	Kathleen Loomis	2002	Niki Strealy & Kerri Traynor
1978	Cheryl Boyum	2003	Katherine Hill Burton
1979	Signa Gibson	2004	Juleanna Andreoni & Betty Izumi
1980	Jenny Nelson	2005	Lila Ojeda
1981	Christy Strong	2006	Jenny Vannoy
1982	Suzanne Kahn	2007	Andi Markell
1984	Patti Tarbet	2008	Monica Hunsberger
1985	Marjorie Norman	2009	Amy Floreen
1986	Peggy Lawson	2010	Jeri Greenberg & Katherine Dodd
1987	Annie Fanning	2011	Danielle Podesta
1988	Peggy Paul	2012	Jordann Kearns
1989	Kelly Van Horn	2013	Garrett Berdan
1990	Ruth Carey	2014	Leah Brandis
1991	Connie Evers & Julie Hood	2015	Whitney Ellersick
1992	Mary Baron & Sandra Kelly	2016	Sareena Smith-Bucholz
1993	Anne Goetze & Lynn Guiducci	2017	Michele Guerrero
1994	Mary Kay Dilerette & Robin Stanton	2018	Claire Nichols
1995	Cheryl Alto & Diane Quiring	2019	Ansley Hill
1996	Cindy Freer Francois	2020	Michelle Bump
1997	Kimra Warren Hawk	2021	Rita Giles
1998	Anne Schenk & Lean Van Winkle	2023	Taylor (Kayfes) Fromherz

Recognized Young Dietitian of the Year
Lewis Martin, MS, RD, LD



Lewis is the Nutrition Director for the Oregon Dairy Council, and brings over a decade of combined clinical and community-based Dietetics experience to his role at ODC and the Oregon Academy Board.

He previously served as the OAND Awards chair, currently serves as Communications Director, and will soon have the honor of taking on the role of President-Elect in the coming year. In addition to OAND, Lewis serves as Treasurer for the Oregon Pediatric Nutrition Practice Group, Steering committee member of the Nutrition Council of Oregon, and Selection Committee member for the OSU and OHSU Dietetic Internship programs. Lewis also takes great pride in bringing an RD perspective

and representation to interdisciplinary teams, including work on the Oregon Academy of Family Physicians Foundation board, and multiple other public health coalitions.

He's passionate about bridging connections between nutrition thought leaders and food system stakeholders, and believes that equitable access to nutrient-dense foods is paramount to help Oregon communities thrive. He considers it one of the greatest privileges of his career to work with and on behalf of Oregon Farmers, and to provide a voice for those that labor tirelessly to feed our friends, family, and neighbors. He also considers his role as a Preceptor to be among the greatest honors of his career. He quotes "It's an incredible blessing to be able to work with Dietetic Interns, to share how Sustainable Food Systems fit into our practice in Dietetics, and to learn from the amazingly diverse and unique perspectives they all bring. I always learn and grow from my experience with each and every one of them, and it's incredibly rewarding to watch them eventually progress from student to colleague."

In accepting the recognition for Recognized Young Dietitian of the Year, Lewis gratefully reflects on the Academy RDNs, Colleagues, past-Professors, and Mentors that helped him achieve this award. He quotes "There's no way I'd be where I am today without the guidance and patience of countless others who selflessly provided their time and energy to help me grow personally and professionally. It's a gift to be a part of such a wonderful group of professionals through the Oregon Academy, and even more of a gift to help others grow as well."

Emerging Dietetic Leader

The Emerging Dietetic Leader of the year must:

- Be a national Academy & Oregon Academy member
- Initial practice experience not less than 5 years and not greater than 10 years. Interrupted careers or time periods not in practice are not to be considered or rationed into the 5-10 years of professional practice experience.
- Active participation in the national, state, or district association for at least 5 years.
- Not previously selected as an RYDY or RDTY.
- Demonstrated concern for the promotion of optimal health and nutritional status of the population.
- Demonstrated leadership, e.g., in legislation, research, education, management, etc., in the Association, community or employment.

There were no nominations this year.

Past Emerging Dietetic Leader Recipients:

1997	Sharon Salmonson Brown		2005	Kirstin Thingvold
1998	James Fox		2011	Garrett Berdan
1999	Lillian Brevoort		2017	Emily Kennedy
2000	Carol DeFrancesco		2019	Julie McGuire
2004	Diane Stadler		2021	Becky A. Johnson

Oregon Recognized Dietetic Technician of the Year

The Recognized Dietetic Technician of the year must:

- Be a national Academy & Oregon Academy member
- Demonstrate active participation in the national, state or district dietetic association
- Demonstrate concern for the promotion of optimal health and nutrition status of the population
- Demonstrate leadership

There were no nominations this year.

Past Recognized Dietetic Technician of the Year Recipients:

1986	Catherine Peterson	1995	Sharon Miller
1987	Robert Wilson	1997	Deborah Carreon
1988	Laura Condit	1998	Cindy Heilman
1990	Connie Gilbert	1999	Kathleen Cunningham
1991	Debra Tapp	2004	Julie Kerr
1992	Lorie Hallahan	2006	Linda Powell
1993	Laura Zollner	2007	Kim Elite
1994	Carla Patterson		

Oregon Outstanding Student Achievement Awards

Louisa Ramierz and Hailey Zhoe



In 2018, after living and training in Russia for 2.5 years, I became the first Mexican American graduate of the Bolshoi Ballet Academy. My time in Russia was truly transformative, as it was there that I found my passion for nutrition and knew I wanted to one day make an impact in the athletic, particularly dance, community regarding body image and disordered eating.

I began studying at Oregon State University in 2018, initially as a business major, but I switched, without hesitation, to nutrition in 2021 once I discovered the dietetics major. My time as a business major was not wasted, however, as I started my own yoga business, which I currently still run, in 2018. During my time at OSU, I also completed three summer study abroad programs- a performing arts combined study abroad + internship with the Florence University of the Arts in 2019, a study abroad at Oriel College of Oxford University in 2022, and an OSU-led public health study abroad in London, England in 2023. Since March 2022, I have worked as a sports nutrition intern for the OSU athletes, and from August- December

2023 I completed an internship as a direct support professional (DSP).

Upon completion of that internship, I was offered a DSP job which I currently hold. At OSU, I have gained a myriad of leadership experiences: serving as the 2023- 2024 president of the Healthy Aging Club, 2023-2024 officer of finances of the Food Recovery Network, 2022- 2024 public relations officer of the Nutrition and Dietetics Club, and the 2022- 2023 vice president, vp of admin/finances, and new member education officer positions in my sorority, Chi Theta Phi. I am also a member of the Order of Omega Leadership Honor Society, which is made up of only the top 5% of Greek life students within North America. As the serving president of the Healthy Aging Club (HAC), I spearheaded a "Thank a Vet" event, in which 143 cards were handmade and delivered to Oregon veterans. This event was written about and published in the campus newspaper, The Daily Barometer.

I have successfully planned events such as the annual HAC Silver Screen event, in which the OSU College of Health Dean, Dr. Brian Primack, was the guest speaker. I was also appointed student leader of the 2022 OSU service-learning program, "Grocery Tours", working with a local grocery store to run a program of educational tours for OSU students to learn grocery shopping skills.

I am currently applying to graduate schools, as I continue on my path to reach the goal I set for myself several years ago in Russia, of making a positive and meaningful impact in the athletic community.



Since earning my undergraduate DPD degree with distinction from UC Berkeley, I have dedicated my early career to specializing in functional and performance nutrition, food science, and product innovation.

Recently, I completed my M.S. in Food Science & Technology at Oregon State University, achieving a GPA of 4.0. Currently enrolled in the OSU dietetic internship program and honored as a recipient of the Warren & Frederica Schad Scholarship, I am exploring various facets of dietetics and embracing mentorship opportunities while pursuing my RDN credential. During my graduate studies, my benchtop research in nutritional pharmacology, particularly focusing on the bioactive potential and metabolic health benefits of seafood, has resulted in three conference presentation first-place awards and high-impact research publications.

Originally hailing from coastal China and raised in Bay Area kitchens, my passion lies in innovation, education, and community building through food and storytelling. At UC Berkeley and Stanford University, I co-founded the FoodInno Institute, where I developed and taught courses on food innovation, human-centered food design, and wild and fermented foods. Additionally, I co-host the annual FoodInno Symposium, convening top professionals, academics, and students in food and nutrition to collaborate on co-creating a sustainable food future. Through my own brand, Hailey Kimchi, I've created a line of creative, hyperlocal ferments and wholesome pastries for my farmers market stand and fundraising bake sales benefiting global causes. I have also taught various workshops and cooking classes, especially focused on seasonal produce, fermentation, traditional crafts, and techniques.

Professionally, I have served as a flavor-obsessed food scientist, holding roles such as Product Development Manager at Pan's Mushroom Jerky and Nona Lim. Notably, my creations have been featured on Shark Tank and received the sofi Gold award from the Specialty Food Association. At Wild Yeast Bakery in Corvallis, I prioritized hospitality, inclusivity, and cultural exchange while developing retail and coffee programs. Additionally, my tenure as the Resident Sport Nutritionist for the Chinese Rowing Association National Team during the Tokyo 2020 Olympic cycle solidified my career focus on performance nutrition. There, I operated our fueling station, led an interdisciplinary effort to personalize needs and goals for the team of 100, and drove evidence-based, positive, and culturally competent changes to the meal and supplement plans. The nutrition program implementation was able to improve performance and health metrics in many of our top athletes and contributed to Team China's medal-laden success at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. This unique experience has helped shape my career focus on performance nutrition, bridging gaps with expertise I bring from other realms of culinary nutrition, consumer packaged foods, and the service spirit.

Looking ahead, my vision is to become a distinguished performance dietitian specializing in weight-class sports. I aspire to establish a private practice and consult in product development and nutritional communication. Receiving the OAND Outstanding Student Award is a humbling honor that will fuel my dedication to excellence and impactful contributions at the intersection of nutrition, food science, and innovation.