Future Education Model Programs – Benefits to Students:

• The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) has released the *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards for Associate (FA), Bachelor’s (FB) and Graduate (FG) Degree Programs*, which are competency-based education (CBE) programs that integrate classroom learning with supervised experiential learning.

• Nutrition and Dietetics is joining the other allied health professions, such as physical therapy, speech language pathology, occupational therapy, audiology, nursing and pharmacy that have switched to CBE models.

• One of the advantages of CBE is that it fosters work readiness. In the *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards*, the curriculum is guided with the competencies and their respective performance indicators, which are clearly defined based on the desired behaviors and job skills targeted.

• Employers see potential value in job applicants who have studied under the *Future Education Model* since it aligns academics with the skills they seek in their employees compared to the traditional, non-competency based, programs.

• Students completing *Future Education Model* programs can provide employers with functional resumes that define in-depth skills they will have demonstrating they are competent at performing those skills when they enter the workplace.

• Students will benefit from programs following the *Future Education Model Standards*. The new standards’ one-step approach versus the traditional two-step process will yield additional benefits to students including:
  - Guaranteed ability to sit for the registration exam once the *Future Education Program* is successfully completed. In the current traditional dietetics education model, students usually need to competitively apply to a supervised practice program after earning their degree; the current low acceptance rate into supervised practice programs means there is no guarantee of being able to sit for the registration exam in the current two-step approach;
  - Decrease in expenses due to enrollment in a single program versus enrollment in two programs with separate application fees; and
  - Potential ability to complete program in less time because classroom learning and supervised experiential learning are integrated into a single program.

• Students will find additional tangible benefits to *Future Education Model programs*, such as:
  - *Future Education Model programs* are more flexible because they allow students to learn at their own pace. When the student demonstrates competence, they have the ability to move on to other more advanced competencies.
  - Some programs offer students credit for prior learning or experience if students can show competence in the targeted skills associated with the experience, reducing the time and cost of education.
  - CBE training is engaging because the education includes both classroom learning and supervised experiential learning at the same time, making the content more relevant and helping students more quickly make the connection between theory and practice; the integration of practical skills with didactic knowledge allows for greater retention of those skills.

Communication:

• Please contact ACEND at 1-800-877-1600 ext. 5400 or futuremodel@eatright.org with questions.