For over a decade, the Academy has collectively worked towards a vision of future education and practice that will elevate the profession and its practitioners. Some areas such as nutrition and dietetics education and practice competencies have already begun shifting to this vision, and other changes will be implemented over the next several years and decades. In addition, the Academy has just now entered its Second Century further emphasizing the importance of elevating the nutrition and dietetics profession.

Meeting Objectives:
Delegates and Meeting Participants will be able to:
1. Share current efforts underway by the Academy and its organizational units to identify and meet the needs of the Second Century workforce.
2. Create a vision of a Second Century workplace.
3. Generate ideas to close the gap between current and future practice.
4. Recognize skills and professional development needed for current and future practitioners.

Introduction
The Academy, the Council on Future Practice (CFP), Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) and Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) have each investigated the current and future landscape to determine education and practice opportunities.

Realities
- One of the themes in a supplement from the CDR Workforce Demand Study noted, “Too many in the profession see dietetics as a job rather than a profession and are not ready to step up to the challenge of change.”
- There is a shortage of health workers globally, while demand for health services jobs are expected to increase.
- RDNs are the mostly highly trained nutrition practitioners and represent a workforce of 100,000 credentialed professionals. Yet, they are underrepresented in careers in global health, resulting in an unfulfilled potential to accelerate progress in improving nutritional status of all people around world.
- Advancing entry levels educational requirements for the RDN and NDTR will have implications in areas such as scope of practice, standards of practice, professional regulations, reimbursement, and professional competence.

Mega Issue Question
How can credentialed nutrition and dietetics practitioners elevate the profession, expand opportunities, and enhance practice for the Second Century?

“If the profession is not moving forward, it is being left behind.”
Adapted from the 2013 CFP Consensus Report
The *CFP Visioning Report 2017: A Preferred Path Forward for the Nutrition and Dietetics Profession* was recently released and consisted of input from Academy members, CDR credentialed nutrition and dietetics practitioners, Academy organizational units, CFP think tank members, and Academy external organization liaisons. The change drivers identified in the report are listed on the right. Each change driver provides opportunities for the dietetics practitioner now and in the future. The recommendations within the report are not meant to be all-inclusive, but rather specific, actionable items that can be pursued in the next 10-15 years to advance the profession.

### Stakeholder Feedback

ACEND interviewed stakeholders representing healthcare administration (pharmacy, nursing), deans of allied health colleges, employers of less traditional roles (communications, marketing, and management), physicians, educators in allied health graduate programs, and researchers regarding their needs with employment of current and future practitioners. Below are the themes that emerged from these interviews.

#### ACEND's Environmental Scan with Stakeholders

- There is an increased focus on disease prevention and integrative healthcare, and the need for more knowledge in emerging areas such as genomics, telehealth, behavioral counseling, diet order writing, and informatics.
- This work requires that healthcare professionals work more interprofessionally.
- Employers indicated the need for improved communication skills in nutrition and dietetics practitioners and an improved ability to understand the patient’s community and cultural ecosystem.
- Practitioners need to be able to read and apply scientific knowledge and interpret this knowledge for the public. Employers also expressed a desire for stronger organizational leadership, project management, communication, patient assessment, and practice skills.
- Many of the stakeholders identified gaps in current competencies in areas of research, communication, leadership/management skills, cultural care, interprofessional work, basic food and culinary preparation, and sustainability.
- Employers indicated that more time might be needed in the preparation of future nutrition and dietetics practitioners to assure application of knowledge and demonstration of skills needed for effective practice.
- Stakeholders identified the importance of associate and bachelor level prepared graduates for roles in community health, wellness, and management.
- Employers identified the need for preparing undergraduates with transferable skills in leadership, business and management, and expressed the need for faculty prepared at the doctoral level.
Current Education and Credentialing Updates

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<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Credentialing</th>
<th>Education</th>
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<tr>
<td>Process Changes</td>
<td>• CDR changed the degree requirement for dietitian registration eligibility, from a Baccalaureate degree to a Master’s degree, effective January 1, 2024.</td>
<td>• ACEND proposed a model for future nutrition and dietetics education with new graduate level standards to prepare generalist and specialist dietitians for these future roles.</td>
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<td>Current Updates</td>
<td>• CDR launched the Essential Practice Competencies. These are applicable to all credentialed nutrition and dietetics practitioners. &lt;br&gt; • By the 2020 cycle, all credentialed nutrition and dietetics practitioners will be on the competency-based system.</td>
<td>• In 2016, ACEND released a first draft of standards and opened a public comment period. The public comments were reviewed. &lt;br&gt; • In February 2017 ACEND released a revised draft of the Future Education Model Accreditation Standards for Associate, Bachelor and Master Degree Programs in Nutrition and Dietetics.</td>
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<td>Practitioner Action Items</td>
<td>• Learn more about the Essential Practice Competencies.  &lt;br&gt; • Seek higher levels of continuing education that advance skills and practice.</td>
<td>• Stay informed by reading the ACEND Update.  <strong>The current dialogue will focus on future practice, but it is important for practitioners to understand the work being done in the areas of education.</strong></td>
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**Strategic Direction**

- The Essential Practice Competencies are just one step in preparing the profession for the changing landscape, trends, and other forces driving practice.
- Practitioners are seeking opportunities to advance practice and expand services. Many active projects and initiatives support this need.
- Credentialed nutrition and dietetics practitioners can help fulfill the changing needs in society.
- The Academy continues to build an organizational infrastructure to help advance the profession and the Second Century work.

The Academy is entering its Second Century and there are many exciting opportunities to advance the profession. Six Second Century opportunity categories have been identified.

<table>
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<th>Six Second Century Opportunity Categories</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Food and Nutrition Security</strong></td>
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<td>Ensure all people have reliable access to culturally appropriate, nutrient-dense food and clean water now and in the future by building resilient food systems and prioritizing actions to prevent and divert wasted food throughout the value chain.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Prevention and Health Care</strong></td>
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<td>Improve health outcomes and decrease health disparities by accelerating the shift to a preventive health care model and using new technologies to individualize nutrition care.</td>
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<td><strong>Global Workforce Capacity</strong></td>
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<td>Grow the number of trained nutrition professionals and dietitians globally, and embed nutrition knowledge broadly to increase nutrition capacity and reach global health goals.</td>
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<td><strong>Environment, Behavior, and Choice</strong></td>
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<td>Create a culture and environment that support health and wellness through relevant and appealing solutions for all places where people spend their time – home, work, schools, and communities.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Research and Standards</strong></td>
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<td>Implement models of trusted, public-private collaboration to accelerate high-quality nutrition research, metrics and standards creation, and open-access platforms for curating research and reporting outcomes.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Investment</strong></td>
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<td>Accelerate progress and explore collaborations to drive investment in nutrition outcomes.</td>
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What the HOD Needs from You
Talk with your delegate(s) about this issue in advance of the Spring 2017 HOD Meeting (April 22-23, 2017). We are seeking your feedback on the following two items:

Tell us about what you or your colleagues are doing as a part of practice now that is unique, innovative and futuristic in nature.

How can current practitioners advance their skills for innovative and future practice? How can they competently demonstrate these skills and teach them to others?

Provide your feedback to your delegate by April 10, 2017.

The HOD Backgrounder, including references for above content, is available at: www.eatrightpro.org/resources/leadership/house-of-delegates/about-hod-meetings
(Eat Right Pro> Leadership> House of Delegates> About HOD Meetings> Spring 2017 HOD Meeting Materials)

Find contact information for your delegate at: www.eatrightpro.org/leadershipdirectory