



Dawna Torres Mughal, PhD, RDN, FADA, FAND

2026 Laverne and Edwin Domel Memorial Award

I am grateful for this funding that supports our work as a professional organization. We want a world where individuals with disabilities have accessible and inclusive nutrition guidance, nutrient-rich foods to optimize health, and equitable access and inclusive opportunities to become active and fully contributing dietetics practitioners.

Dr. Mughal is associate professor (Emerita) at Gannon University, Erie, Pennsylvania. She was the former director of the Consortium Coordinated Undergraduate Program in Dietetics, a tri-institutional collaboration. Developing this consortium is one of the highlights of her career in dietetics education program. Her work experience includes research, acute care, higher education, program development, advocacy, and community service. As a leader, educator, lifelong learner, and long-term volunteer, she has held diverse positions, nationally and internationally, that have impacts. She has received honors and recognition for her work.

Dr. Mughal is the current education committee director of the Disabilities MIG. She is also a board member and nominations committee chair of the National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices, and clinical director, Health Promotion, Special Olympics Pennsylvania.

Award Overview

The Laverne and Edwin Domel Memorial grant is intended to make our webinars more accessible to individuals who are Deaf or who have hearing loss. These webinars are for the continuing professional education of our MIG members and other credentialed dietetics practitioners. We will provide American Sign Language and Communications Access Realtime Translation (CART) technology. CART refers to the verbatim, word-by-word real-time conversion of spoken words into text or caption. The generated text is displayed on a large screen visible to everyone, on a laptop or mobile device.

What inspired you to pursue a career in nutrition and dietetics? .

I was a chemistry major before I switched to foods and nutrition. The new major combines my interest in nutrition and food science and the art (dietetics) and their application to health and diseases, public health, and public policy. I appreciate the diverse career opportunities in our field. However, I enjoy teaching the most. Education is key to the development of competent dietetics practitioners.