

**Making the Case and Space for Competency-Based Supervised Practice Experiences in Agriculture and Food Systems Settings**

K a y l e Skorupski, MS, RDN-AP, CSG, CNSC, FAND  
 A s h l e e L i n a r e s - G a f f e r, MS, RDN, FAND  
 M o d e r a t o r : L o n a S a n d o n, PhD, MEEd, RDN, LD

**Nutrition and Dietetic Educators and Preceptors**  
 Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

1

Thank you to our sponsors

**Nutrition and Dietetic Educators and Preceptors**  
 Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

2

In this presentation...



**Objective 1**

Identify the value and relevance of developing agricultural knowledge and experience among future dietetics professionals.



**Objective 2**

Demonstrate the opportunities and challenges to facilitating supervised practice experiences in agricultural settings for the University of Arizona ISPP program.



**Objective 3**

Show examples of competency-based supervised practice experiences in agricultural settings.



3



- ISPP Pathway started in 2012
- Distance and Traditional
- Average of 9 interns/year
- Land-grant university
- Department of Nutritional Sciences within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

**About Us**

The University of Arizona ISPP Program

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
 COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES  
**Nutritional Sciences**

4

### Arizona Food and Agriculture

**20k**  
Farms and Ranches across the state

**Gastronomy**  
Tucson, AZ is 1 of 2 cities in the U.S. to receive the UNESCO City of Gastronomy recognition in 2015

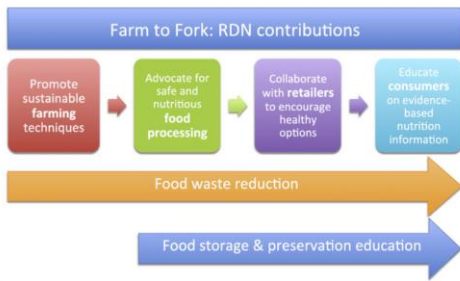
**Winter Vegetables**  
Yuma, AZ "Winter Lettuce" capital of the world

5

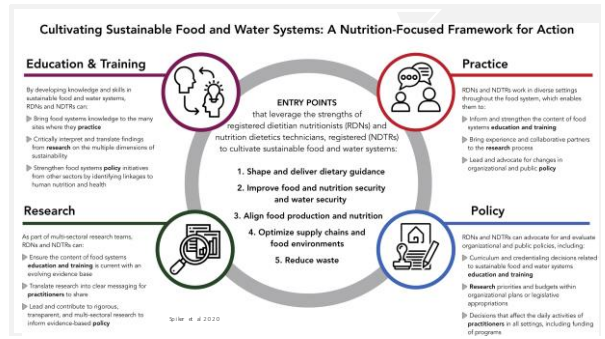
### Why Focus on Agriculture?

- The Average American is at least 3 generations removed from farming <sup>1</sup>**
- Less than 2% of the population is involved in farming and ranching <sup>1</sup>**
- Consumers want to know more about their food, where it comes from, and understand the connection between diet and health <sup>2</sup>**
- Educators of future nutrition and dietetic practitioners have a professional obligation to teach sustainability issues to their students <sup>3</sup>**

6



7



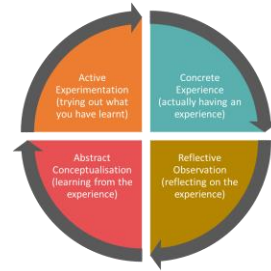
8

### Applying DI Competencies <sup>6</sup>

- CRDN 1.6 Incorporate critical-thinking skills in overall practice.
- CRDN 2.14-Demonstrate advocacy on local, state or national legislative and regulatory issues or policies impacting the nutrition and dietetics profession.
- CRDN 3.8- Deliver respectful, science-based answers to client questions concerning emerging trends.
- CRDN 4.6- Propose and use procedures as appropriate to the practice setting to promote sustainability, reduce waste and protect the environment.



9



Kolb's Learning Cycle (1984)

<https://www.inspiringuk.com/how-to-create-effective-learning-within-your-organisation/kolbs-learning-cycle/>

10

### What we Do

#### Food and Agricultural Settings

Guided tours of farms, manufacturing facilities and local businesses



#### Public Policy and Advocacy

Contextual understanding of the relationship between legislation and its impacts on the food system, public health and the local economy



#### Professional Development & Networking

Active participation in conferences and workshops on food, nutrition, public health and agriculture



11

### Food and Agricultural Excursions

- Du Brook Dairy
- Caballero Dairy
- Shamrock Farms
- Apple Annie's
- Abbott Nutrition
- AZ Farm Bureau
- Barrio Bread
- Brigg's and Egger's
- Birman Dairy
- Green Valley Pecans
- Hickman's Family Farms
- Pinal Feed
- Queen Creek Olive Mill
- Santa Rita Ranch
- TRK Red River Dairy
- Wholesum Harvest
- Cooperative Extension Programs
- USDA
- Customs and Border Patrol
- AZ Beef Council
- AZ Dairy Council

#### Variety

- Dairy
- Livestock
- Agritourism
- Manufacturing
- Trade Organizations
- Advocacy Groups
- Organic
- Conventional
- Greenhouses
- Urban Farming
- Government Agencies
- Local Gastronomy



12

**Food and Agricultural Excursions**



**Pre-Work**  
Reading, discussion, formulating questions



**On-Site**  
Interactive tour, discussions, Q&A, demonstration



**Reflection**  
Discussions with peers and write-ups

13

**Public Policy and Advocacy**

- Partner with Arizona Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AZAND)
- Legislative research and coordination
- Public Policy Day



14

**Professional Development and Networking**

Local academy meetings and networking events: District events and annual state meeting

Conferences: Food, nutrition, public health, agriculture, leadership



15



Clockwise from top: Wholesum Harvest tomato greenhouse, Elmanee Greek yogurt factory, Customs and Border Patrol Nogales port of entry, AZ dairy conference, Tucson Festival of Books

16



17

- Transportation
- Time
- Cost
- Coordination
- Buy-In
- Creativity
- Familiarity

18



**Tips for Getting Started**

-  **Connect**  
Reach out to professional organizations, cooperative extension, local farmers
-  **Start Small**  
Plan 1-2 excursions to start
-  **Prepare**  
Plan pre-work, on-site discussion and activities, reflective practices. Utilize experiential learning best practices

19

**References**

1. Our Food Link. American Farm Bureau Federation. Available at: <https://www.fb.org/programs/womens-leadership-program/our-food-link/>. Accessed May 9, 2019.
2. Archana Kumar & Sylvia Smith (2018) Understanding Local Food Consumers: Theory of Planned Behavior and Segmentation Approach, *Journal of Food Products Marketing* 24:2, 196-215, DOI: 10.1080/10454462.2017.1266553
3. Webber CB, Sarjani A. Fitting Sustainable Food Systems Into Dietetic Internships—A Growing Trend. *Journal of Hunger & Environmental Nutrition*. 2013;5(4):477-489.
4. Vogliano C, Steber A, Brown K. Linking agriculture, nutrition, and health: The role of the registered dietitian nutritionist. *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*. (2015):1710-1714.
5. Spiker ML, Knoblich-Hahn A, Brown K, Giddens J, Hege AS, Sauer K, Enos DM, Steber A. Cultivating sustainable, resilient, and healthy food and water systems: a nutrition-focused framework for action. *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*. (2020):1057-1067.
6. ACEND Accreditation Standards for Nutrition and Dietetics Internship Programs. *Accreditation Council on Education for Nutrition and Dietetics*. Available at: <https://www.eatrightpro.org/media/eatrightpro-files/acend/about-program-accreditation-standards-2017>. <https://doi.org/10.1008333AAPDF0E8A66BB7876778808BF7E08667>. Accessed May 9, 2019.

20



Kayle Skorupski: [kayleskorupski@arizona.edu](mailto:kayleskorupski@arizona.edu)

Ashlee Linares-Gaffer: [alinares@arizona.edu](mailto:alinares@arizona.edu)