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February 2, 2021

Dear Idaho Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Award Selection Committee:

I am writing to nominate Shelly Johnson, MS, and Professor in Extension for the GEM Award. Shelly Johnson has promoted and encouraged good health with an emphasis on sound nutrition habits through efforts to educate the public in her position as an extension educator in family and consumer sciences. Shelly is employed by University of Idaho Extension, Kootenai County.

Shelly oversees Eat Smart Idaho, which is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-ED) in Idaho. In this roll, she implements nutrition education in ten counties in Northern Idaho with the help of an RDN program coordinator, community nutrition advisors, and University of Idaho dietetics students. The dietetics students have a unique opportunity to provide programming for Eat Smart Idaho during their Community Nutrition Supervised Practice during the fall semester during the months of September- November. Eat Smart Idaho programming includes direct education to low income families, the Smarter Lunchroom Program, and a Healthy Food Pantry/ Healthy Food Drive project, of which the students are able to be a part of.

Dietetics students learn so much from Shelly Johnson! Kayla Patarini, a 2020 graduate says, "[Shelly] made the rotation so interesting and fun while still being extremely educational. I learned so much more about what being a community nutrition dietitian means and all the different areas of the community that dietitians can work in. In addition to a very busy community rotation, she also provided access to different facilities to provide nutrition education in November. I think those days really helped hone my teaching skills. It got me my first job offer, after all!" Kayla Lutz, a 2020 graduate says, "Mrs. Johnson went above and beyond to expose us to as many aspects of her work as possible, and I admired her outlook, passion, and approach to community work. What an opportunity!"

In addition to Eat Smart Idaho, Shelly provides programming in wellness, obesity prevention, diabetes prevention, physical activity and food safety.

I once heard Kim Young say, "Everyone thinks Shelly Johnson is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist!" She does the work that many of us do and aspire to do, as Registered Dietitian Nutritionists. Shelly Johnson works tirelessly to train up and coming professionals in the field of nutrition and dietetics. She improves the lives of Idahoans through her work as an extension educator. Shelly Johnson is truly a GEM!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hydee Becker".

Hydee Becker, MS, RDN, LD
Director of Dietetics