



Director Spotlight!



Showcasing the passion, talents, and hard work of Arizona school nutrition professionals.



Jody Buckle

Director of Food and Nutrition, Humboldt Unified School District

Hometown: Prescott Valley, Arizona

Current City of Residence: Prescott Valley, Arizona

Favorite Childhood School Meal: Salisbury Steak with Mashed Potatoes and Gravy

When I was a kid, I wanted to grow up to be a: Garbage Man

What prompted you to start working the field of school nutrition?

My start in the field school nutrition was prompted by circumstances and opportunity.

Tell us about a specific project or initiative you have championed that you are proud of.

Offering our garden bars during this pandemic was something we really wanted to continue. Getting the principals on board with how we were going to accomplish this was a struggle but they understood our passion and the reasons behind it and how we were still going to keep our kids safe.

Assuming time and money were not barriers, what would be your top priority as far as changes you would like to see in your school nutrition program?

Now that our principals have been able to adjust their lunch schedules to meet the social distancing requirements, I would like to see them go to recess before lunch once COVID-19 settles down.

What are the top three skills a school food service director should have?

Communication skills, organization, and flexibility, flexibility, flexibility!

What advice would you give to a younger version of yourself just starting your role as Director?

I have only been a Director in the Food and Nutrition Department for 2 years but have managed food and people for 29 years. My advice would be to take care of your employees. They are the backbone of your success. Treat them right and you can accomplish all of your goals.