



Director Spotlight!

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



Lindsay Aguilar

Director, Food Services Department, Tucson Unified School District

Hometown: Tucson, Arizona

Current City of Residence: Tucson, Arizona

Favorite Childhood School Meal: French Bread Pizza

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

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

I was prompted by my experience during my dietetic internship where I had the opportunity to work at a school district and I discovered my love for school nutrition.

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

Partnering with our Community Food Bank, National Guard, County Supervisor's office and TUSD Family Resource Centers to receive and distribute produce boxes and milk during the pandemic.

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?

Remodeling our meal service areas at all 88 schools to look less institutional and look like restaurants or outdoor food trucks with digital menus and endless online possibilities for our services! Another top priority would be for our customers to have more than 15-20 minutes to enjoy their meal.

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

Leadership, communication and advocacy skills.

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

Always remember that you are the expert in your area of food service within a larger organization. Be confident, collaborative and familiarize yourself with areas of child nutrition that may be current weaknesses so you can successfully balance nutritional and fiscal integrity of your operation.