Network Support Chairs

Work on the 30,000-foot goals for farm to school/ECE programs at the local, regional, and state-level. This includes:

- Tracking policy that supports fresh food access to low-resourced communities,
- Insisting equal access to resources for farm to school/ECE program development,
- Leveraging community resources to support farm to school/ECE activities,
- Supporting work groups as much as possible.

Michele Mellot,
Co-Chair
Arizona Department of Agriculture
Email: mmellott@azda.gov

Jesse Davenport,
Vice Chair,
Arizona Department of Health Services
Email: jesse.davenport@azdhs.gov

Jessie Gruner,
Policy Chair
Pinnacle Prevention
Email: jessiegruner@pinnacleprevention.org

Jayson Matthews,
Development Chair
Valley of the Sun
United Way
Email: jayson.matthews@gmail.com

Vacant
Equity & Inclusion Chair

Regional Chairs

In summer 2021, Regional chairs will be added to the Arizona Farm to School Network Structure. Chairs will be selected from within the AZ Health Zone, Local Implementing Agency network. This federally funded fleet of practitioners work by county in eligible communities to support childhood nutrition programs and local food systems. This includes:

- Training schools/ECEs how to implement and sustain gardens
- Training schools/ECEs how to purchase locally sourced or available foods for use in meal programs,
- Training schools/ECEs to utilize Local Wellness Policies and/or organizational policy to support farm to related best practices,
- Support improvements in nutrition practices and environments,
- Leveraging community resources to support farm to school/ECE activities and,
- Train, support, connect small farmers and growers in techniques, business practices, and diversified markets.

For interest in a vacant chair position, email ArizonaFarmtoSchool@azed.gov!
### Arizona Farm to School Network Leadership

**Network Integral Chairs**

- Jilliann Sundberg, Procurement Chair
  *(Former) Osborn School District*
  jilliann.sundberg@gmail.com

- Patty Emmert, Production Chair
  Duncan Family Farms
  patty@duncanfamilyfarms.net

- Paige Mollen, Education Chair
  Mollen Foundation
  paigemollen@mollenfoundation.org

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  paigemollen@mollenfoundation.org

- Food Education Work Group
  The Food Education Work Group is facilitated by an expert in curriculum development and the array of educational platforms that are used to deliver food, nutrition and/or agriculture experiences to students.

- School Garden Work Group
  The School Garden Work Group is facilitated by experts in school garden program development. Both are certified Master Gardeners for Maricopa County and have worked with school garden grantees under various grant programs.

- Farm to ECE Work Group
  The Farm to ECE Work Group is facilitated by two experts in food systems, nutrition and Early Care Education. This work group has spent the last two years working on building professional development resources for ECE Professionals on Farm to ECE for the state of Arizona. This work group joined the Network in March 2020.

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**Procurement Work Group**

The Procurement Work Group is co-facilitated by experts in school nutrition and farming. This work group has spent the last few years studying local fruit and vegetable purchases with community-supported funds to understand procurement practices, price thresholds, distribution, and service models across a variety of school districts.

**Food Education Work Group**

- Ashley Schimke, School Garden Co-Chair
  Arizona Department of Education
  Ashley.Schimke@azed.gov

- Ashley Grabb, Farm to ECE Co-Chair
  Maricopa County Dept. Public Health
  ashley.grabb@maricopa.gov

- Hope Wilson, Farm to ECE Co-Chair
  UA Cooperative Extension
  hopewilson@cals.arizona.edu

**School Garden Work Group**

- Jayson Matthews, School Garden Co-Chair
  Valley of the Sun United Way
  jayson.matthews@gmail.com

**Farm to ECE Work Group**

- Ashley Schimke
  Arizona Department of Education
  Ashley.Schimke@azed.gov

- Ashley Grabb
  Maricopa County Dept. Public Health
  ashley.grabb@maricopa.gov

- Hope Wilson
  UA Cooperative Extension
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