

Excellence in Practice Awards

Applications are due February 28, 2027

The Washington State Academy Excellence in Practice Awards acknowledge and promote the professional contributions of members. They are intended to highlight significant achievement, innovation, and/or impact of a specific project, rather than cumulative career accomplishments. We will select up to two awardees each year.

Requirements

- Be an active member of the Washington State Academy.
- Active participation in the national, state, or district association for at least 5 years.
- A Registered Dietitian or Dietetic Technician, Registered.
- Not previously selected for this award.
- Demonstrated recent significant achievement, innovation, and/or impact of a specific dietetics-related project. Examples:
 - Implementation of a special community or clinical nutrition program
 - Development of patient/public/academic nutrition education material
 - Contribution to original nutrition research
 - Development of management programs in business or consultant dietetics.
 - Innovative approaches to the management of food and nutrition support/care services.
 - Presentation of educational talks, seminars, or other educational events to a professional group

Application

Submit all materials on time. Incomplete and/or late applications will not be scored.

- ☐ **Complete Online Application:** <https://forms.gle/aWepS2Q69egKAQqG7>
- Includes uploaded CV/Resume and Letter of Recommendation (please start document title with the candidate's last name)

Category	Points	Description
Section 1: Elected & Appointed Academy Positions	10	This section evaluates the depth, duration, and organizational level of the candidate's official leadership roles within the Academy (National, State Affiliate, District) and outside of the Academy.

Category	Points	Description
Section 2: Academy Leadership Accomplishments	10	In 200 words or less, provide a narrative description of board leadership accomplishments; either highlight 1-2 key accomplishments or summarize cumulative accomplishments.
Section 3: Professional Excellence & Practice Innovation	15	In 200 words or less, provide a recent, tangible impact on the field of dietetics within any area of nutrition expertise.
Section 4: Operational Leadership, Management & Education	15	In 200 words or less, provide a description of your broader professional contributions in leadership, administrative management, systems optimization, or knowledge-sharing.

Section 1: Elected and Appointed Positions (Max 10 Points)

This section evaluates the depth, duration, and organizational level of the candidate's official leadership roles (National, State Affiliate, District).

Please select the number of years that you have served in each position.

- National Level - Elected/Appointed
- State Affiliate - Elected/Appointed
- District Level - Elected/Appointed

Please list the specific positions and actual years (not the total number) that you served in the position.

Section 2: Academy Leadership Accomplishments (Max 10 Points)

This section evaluates your volunteer contributions specifically within the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, state affiliates, or district dietetic associations. Your score is determined by the depth, frequency, and breadth of your involvement.

- **9–10 Points (Excellent):** Awarded for exceptional impact. Your volunteer work spans multiple categories and shows clear evidence of driving structural change, policy advancement, or widespread community engagement within the association.
- **6–8 Points (Strong):** Awarded to active volunteers in multiple categories. You demonstrate consistency and reliable engagement in local or state affiliate events.
- **3–5 Points (Moderate):** Awarded for limited or generalized volunteer activity. This tier typically reflects short summaries or involvement confined to only one primary category.
- **0–2 Points (Minimal):** Given for minimal association volunteer work.

Section 3: Professional Excellence & Practice Innovation (Max 15 Points)

This section evaluates the nominee's recent, tangible impact on the field of dietetics within **any area of nutrition expertise**. Scoring is based on recent, significant achievements, creative problem-solving, and innovative approaches that advance the candidate's specific practice setting, optimize patient/client outcomes, or elevate standard operating procedures.

- **13–15 Points (Excellent):** Exceptional demonstration of practice excellence. The candidate provides robust, comprehensive evidence of a highly innovative initiative, project, or process improvement with a clear, measurable positive impact. Their work serves as an outstanding model for the profession, demonstrating a level of expertise and dedication that goes far beyond standard workplace performance.
- **9–12 Points (Strong):** Clearly demonstrates solid execution of a specialized nutrition initiative or workplace improvement. The candidate details a successful, completed project or a unique approach to their daily practice that reflects a high standard of care, strong initiative, and clear benefits to their target audience or organization.
- **5–8 Points (Moderate):** Provides a standard professional summary. The description is generalized and focuses primarily on maintaining everyday, routine job requirements rather than a distinct, high-impact project or an innovative approach to nutrition practice.
- **0–4 Points (Minimal):** The narrative is missing, incomplete, or fails to detail any distinct achievement or innovation in their professional practice.

Section 4: Operational Leadership, Management & Education (Max 15 Points)

This section evaluates the nominee's broader professional contributions in leadership, administrative management, systems optimization, or knowledge-sharing. Scoring focuses on how the candidate—**regardless of their specific practice setting**—has demonstrated exceptional leadership, built or managed efficient programs, optimized delivery systems, or contributed to the education and training of peers, students, or the community.

- **13–15 Points (Excellent):** Exceptional demonstration of management, leadership, or educational excellence. The candidate provides comprehensive evidence of leadership that significantly optimizes organizational systems, streamlines food/nutrition operations, or advances professional knowledge. Their narrative highlights clear, extra-mile initiatives, such as developing new business/consultant programs, designing comprehensive education protocols, or delivering high-level presentations to professional peer groups.
- **9–12 Points (Strong):** Clearly demonstrates successful leadership initiative, program management, or professional education delivery. The candidate details a completed initiative—such as implementing a new operational protocol, managing a distinct program component, or presenting a well-received training or seminar—that shows an advanced standard of professional practice.
- **5–8 Points (Moderate):** Provides a standard professional leadership summary. The narrative focuses mostly on routine, daily administrative oversight, required staff supervision, or baseline operational duties rather than systemic impact, true organizational innovation, or active peer education.
- **0–4 Points (Minimal):** The narrative is missing, incomplete, or fails to detail a distinct achievement in leadership, systems management, or professional presentations.