

NIFA Nutrition Security Webinar Series – February Edition
Honoring and Celebrating Black History Month:
The Role of Registered Dietitian Nutritionists and Other Allied Health Professionals
Speaker Bios

Sara Bleich, PhD is the Director of Nutrition Security and Health Equity in the Food and Nutrition Service at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), after serving as the Senior Advisor for COVID-19 in the Office of the Secretary at USDA (2021). She is a policy expert and researcher who specializes in diet-related diseases, food insecurity and racial inequality with more than 175 peer-reviewed publications. She is on leave from her post as a Professor of Public Health Policy at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, the Kennedy School of Government, and the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. Dr. Bleich was also a White House Fellow during the Obama administration, where she worked at USDA as a Senior Policy Adviser for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services and with the First Lady Michelle Obama's *Let's Move!* Initiative. She holds degrees from Columbia (BA, Psychology) and Harvard (PhD, Health Policy).

Lydia Kaume, PhD, RDN is a National Program Leader in the Division of Nutrition, Institute of Food Safety and Nutrition at the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA (NIFA). Lydia leads Small Business Innovation Programs (SBIR) 8.5 and Community Foods Projects Program. Prior to joining NIFA, Dr. Kaume specialized in translating nutrition research and evidence into extension programs to advance the strategic goals of the land grant university mission. Dr. Kaume is a graduate of two prestigious Leadership Programs, and a recipient of several awards. She received a Bachelor of Education at Kenyatta University, Kenya, a Master's in Human Nutrition, and her Ph.D. in Food Science from the University of Arkansas Fayetteville; and completed her dietetic internship at Iowa State University. Lydia has authored and co-authored several technical and non-technical publications in her field. She is also a member of the Academy of Dietetics and Nutrition and the American Society of Nutrition.

Elizabeth Campbell, MS, RDN is the Senior Director of Legislative and Government Affairs for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics where she oversees the USDA portfolio as well as the grassroots advocacy team. Prior to her time at the Academy she was a food security and nutrition consultant who focused on grassroots advocacy, program implementation, and evaluation contracting with many different organizations from the School Nutrition Foundation and Share Our Strength to Feeding America and the Food Bank of Central New York. As a research specialist at the University of California's Nutrition Policy Institute (NPI) she focused on research related to improving the nutrition quality of foods distributed through the charitable food network and has helped support over 20 food banks nationally develop and implement nutrition policies. Elizabeth also worked at the Food Bank of CNY that covers 11 counties servicing both rural and urban communities and held many positions during her tenure including Director of Internal Operations and the Nutrition Resource Manager where she led her team's efforts to develop and implement 'a no soda, no candy donation policy'. At the Food Bank of Central New York, she ran the Child and Adult Care Food Program and the Summer Food Service Program and spear-headed the organization's advocacy efforts including working to protect and strengthen SNAP and child nutrition programs. Elizabeth has supported over 25 school districts implement Breakfast in the Classroom as the Senior Program Manager at the

School Nutrition Foundation. She is a registered dietitian, a member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, and the Hunger and Environment Dietetic Practice Group. Elizabeth earned her Bachelor's degree at LeMoyne College where she majored in Human Resource Management and Industrial and Labor Relations and her master's degree from Syracuse University where she majored in Nutrition Science.

Lydni Buckingham-Schutt, PhD, RD, LDN is an Assistant Professor and Community Nutrition and Health State Extension and Outreach Specialist, Nutrition and Wellness. Prior to her role at Iowa State University, Lyndi was the Director of Wellness and Nutrition Policy, where she was responsible for developing and implementing The Harkin Institute's wellness and nutrition policy agenda, research projects, and educational outreach. From 2013-2017 Lyndi was an USDA Fellow for Childhood Obesity Prevention at Iowa State University and studied the effect of a physical activity, nutrition, and behavioral intervention during pregnancy to improve maternal and fetal outcomes. Lyndi's research focuses on evidence-based policy approaches to improve food and nutrition systems that support access to healthy food, sustainable development, and food equity. Lyndi received a BA in Exercise Science from St. Olaf College, a BS in Dietetics from Iowa State University, and a PhD in Interdisciplinary Nutritional Science from Iowa State University. Outside of The Harkin Institute, Lyndi is a member of the Above + Beyond Cancer board, Iowa ACE's 360 board, and a commissioner on the Des Moines Sister City Commission.

Judith Camele Anglin, PhD, RD, LD, FAND is an Associate Professor and Program Director, has over twenty years of experience as a clinical dietitian, researcher, and educator. She has conducted studies and published journal articles in peer review journals assessing nutritional status of patients with chronic diseases including obesity, kidney diseases, diabetes, and sickle cell anemia. The New York Times and Chicago Tribune has featured her obesity study. Judith is currently the principal investigator for a nutritional genomics study investigating the relationship among chronic kidney failure, APOL 1 variants, and nutritional status. Dr. Anglin intuitively sees and uses opportunities to advance students' education and conduct research to improve health outcomes of African Americans/Blacks. Her contributions to the profession was recognized by NDEP as an Outstanding Dietetic Educator.

With deep passion, she advocates for diversity, equity, and inclusion and served on the Academy's Diversity Committee. Judith is the Chair of NOBIDAN's Public Policy Committee and the Treasurer for the North America Food Systems Network. She is an inspirational leader with strong decision-making and relationship building skills.

A graduate of Howard University and the University of Technology (Jamaica), Judith enjoys travelling and wildlife.

Angie Tagtow, MS, RD, LD is the Founder and Chief Strategist of Äkta Strategies. She has 30-years of experience working at local, state, federal, and international levels in agriculture, food and nutrition policy, public health, and food and water systems. Angie is the former Executive Director for the USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion. She is a registered dietitian and has served as a 2020 National Leadership Academy for the Public's Health Fellow; Senior Fellow and Endowed Chair at the Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture, University of Minnesota College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences; and as a Food and Society Policy Fellow with the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy. Angie launched the

Journal of Hunger & Environmental Nutrition in 2005 in which she served as the managing editor for 11 years. She has published numerous peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and reports. She is currently a doctoral student at the University of Illinois at Chicago, School of Public Health.

Cheryl Jackson Lewis, MPA, RD, LDN is the National Director of the Nutrition, Education, Training and Technical Assistance Division in USDA's Food and Nutrition Service - Child Nutrition Programs. Cheryl has held multiple senior level technical and management positions in support of Child Nutrition Programs at the local, state, national and international levels. Previously, she served as a Senior Nutrition Policy Advisor at the U.S. Agency for International Development administering child health and nutrition programs in Asia, Latin America and Africa. Cheryl attended Virginia State University, the Medical College of Virginia and Virginia Commonwealth University. Cheryl is a member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

Alison Brown, MS, PhD, RDN is a public health nutrition researcher committed to addressing diet-related health disparities through research, community engagement and empowerment, and systems change. Dr. Brown's past research explored immigrant health and diet and cardiovascular disease outcomes. Currently, she serves as a Program Director at the National Heart Lung Blood Institute where her work centers on the social determinants of health and nutrition health disparities. She also served as the Past Chair of the National Organization of Blacks in Dietetic and Nutrition and Adjunct Faculty at Prince George's Community College. She is a former AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow, Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Diversity Leader, American Society of Nutrition Science Policy Fellow, and Board Chair of a community-owned grocery store in Boston. In 2018, she was honored as a 40 under 40 Leader in Minority Health by the National Minority Quality Forum. She also serves on the editorial board for the *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*, *Journal of Racial Ethnic Health Disparities*, *Health Psychology*, and *Translational Behavioral Medicine*.

Deirdra Chester, PhD, RDN is the agency Science Advisor for USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) in the Office of the Administrator. Her primary role is coordinating any science/biodefense issues between the APHIS and USDA, the USDA Office of the Chief Scientist and the USDA Office of Homeland Security. She represents APHIS on the USDA Science Council. Prior to joining APHIS she served as the National Program Leader for Applied Nutrition Research in the Division of Nutrition, Institute of Food Safety and Nutrition at the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA. In her role as the National Program Leader of Applied Nutrition Research, she provided leadership in identifying emerging issues of national importance, program reviews, and grants management in the area of nutrition, functional components of food, childhood obesity prevention, food safety outreach and the Small Business Innovative Research in Nutrition and Food Safety. Dr. Chester is a Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist. Dr. Chester has held membership in the following professional organizations: The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the American Public Health Association and the Institute of Food Technologists. Dr. Chester has spoken both nationally and internationally on nutrition topics. Dr. Chester is on the editorial board of the *Journal of Obesity and Chronic Disease*. Dr. Chester holds a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Nutrition from Florida International University where she was awarded the McKnight Doctoral Fellowship and was in

the inaugural class of the Gates Millennial Scholars. She holds a Master of Science degree in Food and Nutrition Science and a baccalaureate degree in Nutrition and Dietetics from Florida State University.