Ford (continued)

learning experience and increase career readiness. The Masters of Science in Nutrition Education (MSNE) program incorporates these principles to prepare nutrition educators.

**Target Audience:** MSNE Alumni from American University, who graduated between 2015-2022.

**Course/Curriculum Description:** The MSNE is a 30-credit program completed in 20 months or less. Students complete 10, 8-week courses asynchronously online, developing skills to become nutrition educators. This program equips students with a foundation in nutritional science and education and communication skills to design and implement nutrition education programs, share scientific knowledge consistent with current recommendations, incorporate communication strategies such as social marketing, and develop program and intervention skills.

**Evaluation Methods:** In order to better understand interested students and their career success following program completion, an alumni survey was conducted in February of 2023. The survey was sent to 245 students who graduated from the MSNE between 2015-2022, with 59 students responding in a 1-week period providing qualitative and quantitative data.

**Results:** The alumni respondents resided primarily in suburban and urban locations (91.7%) at the time of enrollment and ranged in age from 21-55. Undergraduate degrees ranged from applied mathematics to nutrition to English Literature. Among graduates surveyed, 81% felt moderately or very prepared for a career in nutrition upon graduation despite only 26% of respondents having a background in nutrition. Over half (53%) of the respondents sought out the program due to interest in making a career change, and upon graduation, 71% of students were working in a nutrition and/or health-related position.

**Conclusion:** This program, thoughtfully designed to combine the foundations of nutritional science with an emphasis on nutrition education, prepares students for careers in the field of nutrition.

**Funding:** None

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SNEB Nutrition Educator Competencies:

**Food and Nutrition Policy**

**Advancing Food Policy Councils Through SNAP-Ed: From Readiness to Capacity for Future Sustainability**

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**Background:** Food policy councils (FPCs) develop and move forth recommendations for changing policy, systems, and environments (PSE) for strengthening the food system. Increasingly FPCs are active in food equity and obesity prevention efforts. More investigation is needed to understand the readiness, outcomes, and sustainability of these groups.

**Objective:** The study aimed to assess readiness to start or expand a FPC; determine change in multi-sector and priority population engagement and the facilitation of PSE changes adopted as a result of FPC efforts over time; and explore capacity for future sustainability of FPCs.

**Study Design, Settings, Participants:** Representatives from seven FPCs funded through SNAP-Ed in South Carolina participated in the mixed methods study from February 2021 to 2023.

**Measurable Outcome/Analysis:** Semi-structured interviews based on an established readiness framework were analyzed thematically. Tracking forms for multi-sector and priority population engagement and PSE adoption based on the SNAP-Ed Evaluation Framework and the Community Engagement Continuum were tabulated across months. Scores using the Program Sustainability Assessment Tool were calculated by domain.

**Results:** Motivations included to build upon existing work, improve food security and healthy food access through policy, and engage community members. Current and needed capacities included internal and external buy-in, resources, and foreseen challenges to overcome. FPC engagement from all sectors increased. The most prevalent sectors reported were business, government, emergency food providers, and libraries while philanthropy, planning, and attorneys were the least prevalent. FPC engagement with priority populations increased with “inform” and “consult” being the most and “delegate” being the least prevalent levels reported. Additionally, twenty-two PSE strategies were adopted. Sustainability scores were highest for the partnerships and adaptation domains and lowest for the strategic planning and funding stability domains.

**Conclusion:** FPCs increased sector and priority population engagement over time and were successful in PSE adoption, though opportunities for technical assistance exist to expand engagement. SNAP-Ed and similar program implementers should also focus supports provided on ensuring long term sustainability of FPCs.

**Funding:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - Education

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Analysis of Consumer Cooking Spray Usage and Perspectives in Free-Living and Laboratory Settings

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**Background:** Nutrition facts labels provide important nutrition information and inform dietary choices. However, studies indicate that reference amounts customarily consumed (RACC) that determine serving size/label content are not always representative of actual consumer use. Notably, U.S. cooking sprays have a RACC/serving size of 0.25 seconds; this small serving allows products to

*Continued on page 33*