**Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation (Academy Foundation)**

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation was established in 1966 and is the only charitable organization devoted exclusively to promoting dietetics and nutrition. The Academy Foundation exists as the philanthropic arm of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.  The Academy Foundation does not receive a portion of any member dues and relies on donations to thrive.

**Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation’s Mission**Advancing public health and nutrition utilizing the expertise of Registered Dietitian Nutritionist.

Affiliates Relationship to the Academy Foundation

How can your state help the Academy Foundation reach its goals? By making sure your state has a state fundraising representative! The Academy Foundation’s State Fundraising Chair is an important position and it serves as the liaison to state affiliate groups for the Academy Foundation.  Their main objective is to assist the Foundation in implementing its mission. The Foundation will communicate specific fundraising goals and will provide the tools and support to help each state chair reach their goals. Affiliates who provide a donation of $250 or more are recognized as members of the Academy Foundation’s Eat Right Society.

**Academy Foundation Priorities**

**Scholarships**

The Academy Foundation serves as the largest provider of dietetics scholarships to assist dietetics students at all levels as they pursue their goal of a career in food and nutrition.  Over the last twelve years, more than $4.2 million dollars has been awarded and this past year alone, 384 students received scholarships totaling more than $505,000. Through the generosity of individual donors, corporations, Dietetic Practice Groups and Affiliates, the Academy Foundation continues to meet the funding needs of students, the future of the dietetics profession.

**Awards**

The Academy Foundation provides funding to registered dietitian nutritionists to further their careers through its awards program.  In addition, the Foundation recognizes the outstanding achievements of Academy members in the area of food and nutrition.  The Academy Foundation makes available $297,000 in the form of public education grants, education stipends, and recognition and leadership awards each year.

**Research**

Funding research elevates the registered dietitian nutritionist’s profile to the public by continuing to position the Academy and its members as the nutrition experts. Last year, the Foundation awarded more than $357,000 to Academy members.  Funds raised for research, especially related to childhood obesity have a direct impact on consumers by providing them with the most relevant and accurate food and nutrition information.  Support of the Foundation’s research initiatives is crucial to the continued funding of valuable Academy member resources such as the Evidence Analysis Library and the Dietetics Practice Based Research Network.  The Academy Foundation provides seed money to Academy members to conduct pilot studies and collect initial data that can be used to secure additional grants.  Research is constantly changing and the Foundation relies on individual, corporate and specialty groups to fund the ever changing needs of the profession.

**Public Education**

***Kids Eat Right***

The Foundation is committed to promoting a healthy today and tomorrow for our children. The Kids Eat Right campaign (public site [www.kidseatright.org](http://www.kidseatright.org/) and member site [www.kidseatright.org/volunteer](http://www.kidseatright.org/volunteer)) was launched to support public education projects and programs that address the national health concern of obesity among our children. Kids Eat Right positions Academy members as the nutrition messenger to both consumer and professional audiences and gives Academy members the opportunity to directly impact the health of children today. The campaign encompasses many elements that provide grant opportunities for Academy members to implement proven programs in their communities by becoming campaign members. Testimonials and initial data collected from parents and children enrolled in Kids Eat Right activities support that Academy members are reaching target audiences and creating healthier lifestyles.

**Guide for Effective Nutrition Interventions and Education (GENIE)**

Provided for your use by the Foundation with funding support from the ConAgra Foods Foundation, GENIE was designed as a simple, practical, and evidence-based self-assessment tool to help nutrition education practitioners design high quality and effective programs. Program planners can benefit from GENIE during the designed process to build effective nutrition education programs with a higher likelihood of achieving their outcomes. Program reviewers can also use GENIE to efficiently compare various nutrition education program proposals and inform funding decisions.

**Future of Food Initiative**

The Foundation's Future of Food initiative began in 2012 as a collaboration with the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation, Feeding America and National Dairy Council. The initial work of this collaboration engaged nutrition and hunger relief professionals to increase awareness about food insecurity while promoting access to healthy food and quality nutrition education in food banks. In the summer of 2013, the Academy Foundation Board of Directors voiced their support to expand the scope of the Future of Food initiative. Since then, the initiative, through an educational grant from Elanco, has devoted efforts to increase member awareness about agriculture and advances in agricultural technology to support sustainable food systems and a safe and nutritious food supply for the growing world population.

**The Foundation’s Annual Fund**

The Annual Fund generates revenue for the Academy Foundation to continue its mission to fund advancing public health and nutrition utilizing the expertise of Registered Dietitian Nutritionists. Unrestricted gifts to the Annual Fund are directed to the areas of greatest immediate need.

Supporting the Foundation’s fundraising activities enables the Foundation to continue its leadership role in:

* Being the largest provider of scholarships and awards to dietetics professionals
* Supporting dietitian-led research through the Research Endowment
* Equipping dietetics professionals to help children learn lifelong healthy eating habits.

Goal: Every member can support the Foundations’ Annual Fund initiative.