

14 September, 2016

Dear Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics –

Over the years members of the Indiana Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (IAND) Board have greatly benefited from the training and resources provided by The Academy, specifically the president-elect training held annually in Chicago. With this, we feel that the transition to utilize web-based trainings in place of the immersive face-to-face trainings may not provide our future leaders with all of the tools and resources needed to be effective change-makers within the dietetic profession and our communities. As one of the most esteemed professional organizations, dietitians should be able to count on The Academy for premier leadership development.

As The Academy maps its second century mission and vision, we challenge you to go even further than what is currently offered for leadership development, while keeping affiliate RDNs and NDTRs present in the decision making process. The IAND Board would support a comprehensive leadership development program utilizing supplemental web-based training that would build upon a formal face-to-face leadership program.

Please know that we understand the possible reasons behind the shift to web-based training including time, cost, and/ or logistics. To combat this, we propose that a portion of the training costs could be taken on by the affiliate(s) or through appropriate sponsorship; additionally, implementing trainings regionally or in locations that are more sensitive to tightening budgets would be more than satisfactory.

In closing, we wanted to take a moment to share what several of IAND's leaders have found beneficial with The Academy's former leadership development program:

As a Cooperative Extension professional, I have benefited from Extension's community and leadership development trainings which have complemented the work I have done for the Academy. Professions such as the Cooperative Extension Service through the National Extension Leadership Development Program and even Indiana's Agriculture professionals through the Indiana Farm Bureau's Agriculture Leadership Program offer face-to-face leadership development programs that also include service-learning experiences and experiential learning activities in foreign countries.

Christina Ferroli, PhD, RD
President

The Academy instills values of leadership, life-long learning, mentoring, and advocacy in all RDNs. Some things cannot be done well over distance and via technology without losing its essence. Providing an in-person training for the affiliate president-elect position supports of all these values, and really fosters growth and development of our future leaders. Academy members are making an investment in The Academy affiliates, in turn, The Academy should make an investment in their training.

Samantha Schaefer, MS, RD, CD
Consumer Protection Coordinator (CPC)
State Policy Representative (SPR)
State Regulatory Specialist (SRS)

The very best part of the in-person president-elect training was the opportunity to personally connect with other affiliate representatives. We were all excited and nervous about the role we were taking on, and we were able to both inspire and encourage each other. I networked with affiliate presidents that I still keep in touch with. This kind of relationship not only makes us better practitioners, but is necessary to position our profession as a cohesive group of leaders.

Christy Tunnell, MBA, RDN, CD
Past-President
Bylaws Chair

Thank you for your time and we look forward to a reply.

Sincerely,

Lorna O'Connell MS, RDN, LD, CD
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The Indiana Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
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