

What is a Supervisory RDN Highlight?

Prepared by: Jasmine Jesri

Cohort 9 (2021-2022)

A Supervisory RDN Highlight is an interview completed by the Dietetic Intern. The Intern selects one supervisor who has been impressive to them. The Intern asks numerous questions that highlight the Supervisory RDNs' accomplishments, goals, involvement and advice.

Listed below are the highlighted Supervisory RDNs by the Dietetic Interns in Cohort 9.

Allison Wortsman highlights: Debbie “Diet” Tindle, RD

Anna Bohigian highlights: Sheri Johnson, BS, RD

Briana Jacinto highlights: Daneivys (Dani) Rodriguez-Brindicci, MS, RDN

David Monterrubio highlights: Giovanne Dimas, RD

Faith Rousey highlights: Veronica Breedlove-Rooney, MS, RD

Haley Adel highlights: Nancy Wikes, MS, RD

Jacqueline Atwood highlights: Anna Apoian, MPA, RD

Jasmine Jesri highlights: Katherine Bennet, MPH, CLEC, RD

Kristine Yada highlights: Ramanjit Sibia, MSC, RD

Madison Cardullo highlights: Beth Cordova, MPA, RDN

Maria Solfrizzo highlights: Jana Nicholl, MS, RD, IBCLC, CNS

Nataly Aceves highlights: Gabrielle (Elle) Teitelbaum, MS, RDN

Supervisory RD Highlight

DEBBIE “DIET” TINDLE, RD

Current Position:

CNM II,
OC Systems Manager

Education:

BS – Dietetics & Food
Administration

Specialty:

Bariatrics,
Clinical Management

Research:

*The Elimination of the Full
Liquid Diet – Future
Dimensions in Clinical
Nutrition Management,*
Vol. XXII, No.4, Fall 2003

Publications:

Nursing Currents, Abbott
Nutrition Health Institute-
*Collaborative Nutrition
Initiatives Promote
Enhanced Patient
Outcomes*, July 2013, Vol 2,
Issue 2

*Elimination of the Full Liquid
Diet, Achieving Service,
Quality and Satisfaction*

2004 Sodexo - The Spirit of
Excellence: How Healthcare
Organizations Are Achieving
Service, Quality and
Satisfaction



Career History:

Outpatient, Internal
Medicine/Bariatrics
Home Health Consulting
In-Patient Clinical RD
Internet Radio Co-Host
Food Services Director
CNM Systems Manager

Awards:

Clinical Excellence
Morrison, 2020

Carol Hayes Torio
Excellence in Management,
2015
CDA –Orange District,

Distinguished Alumni –
CSULB, Intern Mentoring &
Training, 2008-2016

Preceptor of the Year
2015-2016, Oakwood
University Distance
Learning Internship

CNM of the Year 2009,
Morrison Management

Manager of the Year 1996,
Santa Ana Hospital, CA

Organization

Involvement:

AND-CNM Practice Group
Symphony Irvine, Advisory
Board Member & Concert
Master

An Interview with Debbie “Diet” -

In your eyes, what is
your biggest
accomplishment?

Successfully facilitating a
Continuous Quality
Improvement (CQI)
multidisciplinary team (28
department directors) to
achieve a 98 score with
commendations for a
triannual survey

What is your best advice for an aspiring dietitian?

Stay engaged with
consumers and current with
research, network with peers
and mentors, and give back
by promoting interns and
students into our dynamic
field of Nutrition and
Dietetics.

Supervisory RD Highlight

Sheri Johnson, BS, RD

Current Position:

Child Nutrition Specialist,
Long Beach Unified
School District

Education:

2007 - BS, Nutrition &
Dietetics, CSULB
2008 – Dietetic
Internship, CSULB

Specialty:

School Foodservice
Nutrition Education
Certificate of Training in
Child and Adolescent
Weight Management

Career History:

LBUSD: 4 years in
School Foodservice
LBUSD: 10 years in
School Nutrition
Education & Curriculum
Previous career as
Marketing Director in the
music industry.

Awards:

Graduated Magna Cum
Laude, CSULB



Organization Involvement:

School Nutrition
Association, member

In your eyes, what is your biggest accomplishment?

Co-writing and receiving
a \$500,000 Farm to
School Grant for our
school district to support
school gardens and
increase locally-grown
fruits and vegetables on
our menus.

An Interview with Sheri Johnson:

What is your best advice for an aspiring dietitian?

Use your internship to
explore the areas that
best meet your talents
and interests. Be open to
career paths you may
not have previously
considered. Think of
each rotation as a job
interview, and showcase
your skills to your
preceptors. You just
might find yourself with a
job offer after your
internship – I did!

Supervisory RD Highlight

DANEIVYS (DANI) RODRIGUEZ-BRINDICCI, MS, RDN

Current Position:

Director of Clinical Nutrition at Torrance Memorial Medical Center

Education:

Master of Science:
California State University, Northridge (CSUN)

Concentration in Nutrition, Dietetics and Food Service

Bachelor of Arts:

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

Major in Psychology,
Minor in Applied Development

Specialty:

Management, Clinical Nutrition, Adult Weight Management, Geriatrics, Bariatrics, Diabetes

Directed Project:

Nutrition Made Easy: A Brochure of Nutrition Education to Enhance Athletic Performance of the CSUN Athlete (2012)

Publications:

Articles and Interviews in TMMC and local publications such as Pulse Magazine & Advantage Journal



Career History:

Clinical Dietitian Nutritionist, Torrance Memorial Medical Center (2012-Present)

Registered Dietitian, UCLA WorkStrong Program (2012-2014)

Dietary Services Supervisor, Country Villa Health Service (2009-2011)

Awards:

Recognized by surveyor of MBSAQIP during reaccreditation survey of the Bariatric Program as a Center of Excellence (2017)

Organization

Involvement:

Member of Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics & MBSAQIP

An Interview with Dani:

In your eyes, what is your biggest accomplishment?

"My diverse experience has helped me become a successful manager and accomplish a great deal in the last two years as a clinical director. I have been able to accomplish everything I set out to do even with the barriers that were presented such as COVID-19."

What is your best advice for an aspiring dietitian?

"Stay open to opportunities, challenge yourself, and try new things. Say yes to challenges to find what you are best at. Do not pigeon-hole yourself, there are so many areas of dietetics you may enjoy."

Supervisory RD Highlight

Giovanne Dimas, RD

Current Position:

3+ years as the Director of Food Services at Providence Little Company of Mary-San Pedro with oversight in the Environmental services area as well.

Education:

B.S Dietetics & Food Administration from CSULB

Specialty:

Food Service Management

Research:

None

Publications:

None



Career History:

Clinical RD Adolescents & Adults

Diet Tech Registered for 5 years prior to obtaining RD credential.

Clinical Dietitian for 2 years at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center, a state of the art "rehab" only facility focusing on adolescent paraplegic and quadriplegic population.

Food Service management for the last 10 years. Working in all three pediatric hospitals in SoCal (Miller Children's, CHOC, and CHOLA) and 4 adult care facilities.

Awards:

Account of the Year 2009 for Sodexo at Children's Hospital Los Angeles

Organization

Involvement:

Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics

In your eyes, what is your biggest

accomplishment?

Completing a project on Diet Office Automation. Worked with software suites: ~~CompuTrition~~ and Sodexo Health Touch, and CBORD. This project required lots of coordination within the kitchen and information systems. Helped jump start my career in foodservice management.

What is your best advice for an aspiring dietitian?

Don't underestimate your interpersonal skills as they are a very important skill to develop and master. Working in healthcare is about developing relationships and not just being excellent in the technical aspect of the clinical job.

Supervisory RD Highlight

Veronica Breedlove-Rooney, MS, RD

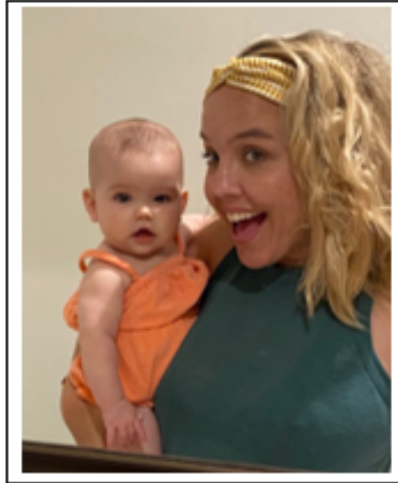
Current Position:
Patient Service
Manager, UC
Irvine Medical
Center

Education:
BS-CSULB
MS-CSULB
Dietetic Internship-
CSULB

Specialty:
Patient Food
Service if that
counts as one 😊

Research:
None

Publications:
None



Career History:
Patient Service
Manager at UC
Irvine Medical
Center since July
2016

Awards:
None 😞

Organization
Involvement:
No time with my
current roll at UCI
and two young
children at home

In your eyes, what
is your biggest
accomplishment?
Managing a large
account that has
union employees

What is your best
advice for an
aspiring dietitian?
Choose the RD
role that you enjoy
yet find challenging
and you will always
have job security
and contentment
for a lifetime!

Supervisory RD Highlight

Nancy Wikes, MS, RD

Current Position:

Supervisor,
Nutrition Services
Fullerton School
District

Education:

Master's Degree in
Nutritional Science with
a minor in Food
Service
Management

Specialty:

School Food Service

Research:

N/A

Publications:

Various articles in
local newspapers
and industry
publications.

Awards:

N/A

Organization

Involvement:

Ways and Means Chair
for SC School Nutrition
Association



Career History:

- Pediatric Dietitian at
Miller Children's
Hospital
- Sr. Nutrition
Specialist at
Huntington Beach
Union High School
District (HBUHSD)
- Part-time lecturer at
Orange Coast and
Fullerton College
- Supervisor of
Nutrition Services
Fullerton School
District

An Interview with Nancy:

In your eyes, what is your biggest accomplishment?

I helped create
curriculum for the
Nutrition Education
Obesity Prevention
Program for HBUHSD.
We wrote a 5-lesson
series and conducted
impact evaluations that
showed the curriculum
made a difference in the
foods the students
chose. After 3 years of
evaluations, the state
approved of the
curriculum. It is currently
being used by Orange
County Health Services.

What is your best advice for an aspiring dietitian?

Go into each rotation
with an open mind to
what they have to
teach you! The
dietetics profession
has so many directions
you can take.

Supervisory RD Highlight

Anna Apoian, MPA, RD

Current Position:
Director, Nutrition Services,
Norwalk-La Mirada USD

Education:
BS Dietetics & Food
Administration; MPA

Specialty:
Administration

Publications:

- Magazines:
 - ... Shape
 - ... Muscle & Fitness
 - ... Fit Pregnancy –
before the age of
blogs!

Career History:

- School Nutrition
Supervisor, Corona-
Norco USD, CA
- Clinical Dietitian 7
Certified Diabetes
Educator, St. Luke's
Houston, TX
- Director, Child Nutrition,
Hawthorne SD, CA
- Director, Nutrition
Services, NLMUSD, CA

Awards:



- Woman of the Year,
2021, Assemblymember
Lisa Calderon, 57th
District
- National Director of the
Year, 2021, School
Nutrition Association
- National FAME Award,
2014
- Congressional
Recognition by US
Representative Judy
Chu, 2013

Organization
Involvement:

- President, California
School Nutrition
Association (CSNA),
Chapter 1, Current
- CSNA Chapter 1 Board
Member – 10 years+
- California Nutrition
Association, Marketing

Chair and Legislative
Chair 4+ years

- California Association of
School Business
Officials, Nutrition
Services Chair and
Member, School Nutrition
Association Member and
Chair – 5+ years

In your eyes, what
is your biggest
accomplishment?

Empowering individual team
members and colleagues to
trust themselves, build
confidence and become
problem solvers.

What is your best
advice for an
aspiring dietitian?

Be authentic; be thoughtful;
be kind; work hard.
If you are a perfectionist,
remember that "good enough
is good enough". Perfection
is the enemy of good.
If you need to be more exact
remember "the difference
between ordinary and
extraordinary, is just that little
'extra'."

Supervisory RD Highlight

Katherine Bennet, MPH, CLEC, RD

Current Position:

I work at Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC Children's) in the outpatient gastroenterology & nutrition clinic. I am a Clinical Dietitian IV.

Education:

BS Nutrition/Dietetics: University of Arizona, Dietetic Internship: University of Virginia, MPH: UCLA

Specialty:

Working with kids of all ages (infants - 21 years of age) who have some sort of GI issue. I love everything "GI" and try not to take my GI tract for granted!

Research:

Currently the Principal Investigator for a CHOC microbiome and tube feeding study evaluating the difference in the gut microbiomes of children receiving standard tube feeding formulas and children receiving a blenderized tube feeding diet.

Publications:

Blenderized Tube Feeding: Health Outcomes and Review of Homemade and Commercially Prepared Products; Nutrition in Clinical Practice, June 2020.

Blenderized Tube Feeding Module 6-Ohio State University Online Infant Feeding Technician Certificate Course, September 2019

Chapter 9: Blenderized Diets in Guidelines for Preparation of Human Milk and Formula in Health Care

Facilities—3rd Edition. Editors: Caroline Steele MS RD CSP IBCLC, Emily Collins MHA RD CNSC, 2018



Career History:

I always knew I wanted to work with kids and in the clinical setting. However, I started as new RDN at an adult hospital in Phoenix, AZ. After 3 months of being on the medical/surgical floors dealing with low sodium diet educations, a position in the NICU opened and I jumped on it! I was able to attend a 3-month Neonatal Nutrition Fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine and then return to AZ to work in the NICU. I moved to California and continued working in the NICU in addition to pediatrics at Miller Children's Hospital in Long Beach. I then transitioned to CHOC Children's in Orange to work in the CVICU and inpatient setting. An opportunity to work as CHOC's first "GI RD" for the CHOC Gastroenterology & Nutrition Division became available and I never looked back—I think this is my favorite job yet!

An Interview with Katherine Bennet:

In your eyes, what is your biggest accomplishment?

Becoming an expert in blenderized tube feeding. I have been asked to speak at the local and national level, recorded a nationally broadcasted webinar, and have also written multiple articles on blenderized tube feeding (everything from blog posts to an invited review published in Nutrition in Clinical Practice). I was also fortunate enough to have been asked to participate on an industry led team to develop a real food-based tube feeding formula—this was a truly unique and valuable opportunity.

What is your best advice for an aspiring dietitian?

One thing I would like to have told my younger self would be to not stress if I don't get my ideal position or job the first time around. The nutrition field is always changing, people are moving, and doors open, especially when you're not expecting it! Just keep an open mind, say yes to opportunities that interest you, and make (and stay in touch with) connections! I would also have reminded my younger self to not stress about learning everything all at one time—I am still learning, even almost 20 years later! Nutrition is both an old and young science—a lot of my learning has taken place on the job and working with patients and other clinicians. Don't rush-try to enjoy the ride. You will end up where you want and need to be

Prepared by Jasmine Jesri, CSULB Dietetic Intern, 2021- 2022

Supervisory RD Highlight

RAMANJIT SIBIA, M.Sc, RD



Current Position & Responsibilities:

Nutritionist (Manager) at Ontario Montclair School District - Oversees Menu Planning

Employment History:

Food Service Director at Rimrock Villa; Nutrition Services Supervisor at San Bernardino Unified City School District; Administrative Dietitian, Kaiser Permanente – Fontana; Counselor at Las Encinas Psych Hospital; Senior Nutritionist at CEDA-WIC Program in Chicago; Food Service Director at Metropolitan Nursing home; Chief Dietitian at Dayanand Medical College and Hospital in India

Research History:

Completed M.Sc. in Nutrition and Child Development in Punjab Agricultural University

What is your best advice for a current Dietetic Intern?

Continue to learn and progress. Most important things to keep in mind that will help you grow is to be flexible, adaptable to any situation and patience.

Why did you become an Internship Preceptor?

Wanted to make a difference in a student's life and prepare them for a career they chose.

What are your future goals?

Retire in Five Years and then work as a consultant.

Family highlights?

I have been married for 21 years and have a beautiful 20-year-old daughter studying Neuroscience at UCR.

Most Memorable Moment as a RDN:

The day I passed my RD exam.

Favorite quote:

"You learn more from failure than from success. Don't let it stop you. Failure builds character." — Unknown

Who do you remember having an important / positive influence on you?
Support from Supervisors

Supervisory RD Highlight

Beth Cordova, MPA, RDN

Current Position:

Dietetic Internship
Director: PHFE WIC

Education:

CSULB: Master of Public
Administration - 2019

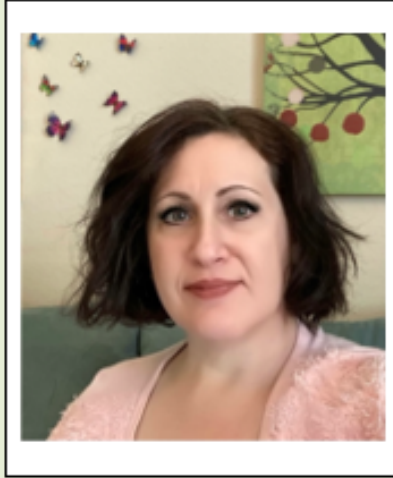
CSULB: Bachelor of
Science, Dietetics and
Food Administration –
2000

Presentations:

Academy of Nutrition
and Dietetics: 2020
Public Health and
Community Nutrition
DPG - "Hot Topics in
Public Health and
Community Nutrition:
"Providing WIC Services
through Remote Delivery
during these Unique
Times"

Presentations:

California WIC
Association Virtual
Conference and Trade
Show: 2020 -
"Recruiting and
Retaining a Diverse
Workforce



Foundation Board:
Director of Grants &
Scholarships, 2020 -
present

Commission on Dietetic
Registration (CDR)
Examination Panel RD-
New Item Writing
Workshop/Pool Review
Meeting

Los Angeles District
(LAD) Dietetic
Association – Diversity,
Equity, and Inclusion
(DEI) Task Force

Career History:

PHFE WIC: 2002-
Present
Fountain Valley Hospital
& Medical Center: 2002-
2001

Harbor UCLA-REI,
Women's Intervention
Nutrition Study (WINS):
2000-1996

Specialty:

Public Health/Community

In your eyes, what is your biggest accomplishment?

Being able to contribute
to the future of so many
future RDNs! It is an
honor!

What is your best advice for an aspiring dietitian?

Use your position to help
others. There will always
be the next group of
aspiring RDNs after
"you" and our profession
cannot thrive if we do not
give back. Be of service!!

Supervisory RD Highlight

Jana Nicholl, MS, RD, IBCLC, CNS

Current Position:

Assistant Director,
Food and Nutrition
Services
Adjunct Instructor,
Nutrition and Dietetics
Program – LBCC

Education:

Bachelor of Science,
Nutrition and Dietetics -
CSULB
Master of Science in
Interdisciplinary Studies,
Sports Nutrition - CSULB
Dietetic Internship -
CSULB
Lactation Consultant,
IBLCE

Specialty:

Nutrition Support,
Pediatrics, Lactation,
Education

Research:

I'm interested in how our
mindset plays a role in
our profession as well as
the importance of
mentorship and
precepting as dietetic
professionals.



Publications:

J. L. Mattoon, J. D.
Nicholl, D. T. Vice.
Evaluating the
Implementation of a
Feeding Protocol in the
Neonatal Intensive Care
Unit. JADA, 109 v. 9

Career History:

Public Health RD – LA
County Public Health
Nutrition Program
**Nutrition Support
Specialist –** Morrison
Pediatric Specialist –
Morrison
**Clinical Nutrition
Manager**
Assistant Director, Food
and Nutrition Services

Organization

Involvement:

Academy of Nutrition
and Dietetics (AND)
CNSC through
ASPEN/NBNSC
IBCLC through IBLCE

An Interview with Jana:

**In your eyes, what is
your biggest
accomplishment?**

Continued growth as a
professional and helping
future professionals. I've
also maintained an open
mind and worked in
many different areas of
nutrition. This has kept
me well-rounded and
relevant.

**What is your best
advice for an aspiring
dietitian?**

Get as much experience
as you can. Even a bad
experience is helpful and
beneficial. That's where
the biggest lessons are
learned.

Supervisory RD Highlight

Gabrielle (Elle) Teitelbaum, MS, RDN

Current Position:
Clinical Dietitian

Education:
Bachelors – SDSU
Masters/DI – CSULB –
Cohort 7

Specialty:
NICU/Peds, Mother
Baby, & Adults

Research:
I completed research for my thesis. Research was assessing the nutritional composition of snack selections among student athletes at CSULB's fueling station.

Publications:
Thesis: "The Average Macronutrient Composition And Calorie Content Of Fueling Station Snack Selections Of NCAA Division 1 Athletes"



Career History:
When I was in undergrad I worked at a coffee shop. During grad school I worked at Trader Joes. I also worked as a DTR at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital prior to my CSULB internship.

Awards:
SWACSM Graduate Student Award
Competition finalist

Organization Involvement:

I was the social media coordinator for the California Academy for ~2 years.

In your eyes, what is your biggest accomplishment?

Being offered a full time clinical position the same day as I received my verification statement. Also, training to become the NICU & Pediatric dietitian after only working as a dietitian for 4 months!

What is your best advice for an aspiring dietitian?

Always negotiate your salary when you are offered a job position!