

Public Health/Community Nutrition Practice Group

# Member Spotlight

## Nancy Becker, MS, RD, LD, FAND

Nancy Becker is a registered dietitian in Oregon where she enjoys blending her passions for social justice and nutrition in her career. Her goal is to advocate for a food system that is healthy, clean and accessible to all by, “making the healthy choice the easy choice.” Nancy most recently worked for the Oregon Public Health Institute (OPHI) whose mission is to promote a healthier Oregon through nutrition policy. In her work with OPHI, Nancy helped shepherd important bills through the Oregon legislature, especially those relating to menu labeling and nutrition standards for foods sold outside the National School Lunch Program. She also served as Chair for the Oregon Nutrition Policy Alliance, an OPHI coalition of nutrition and health groups which promotes policy to create a healthy, active Oregon.



Nancy grew up in the Bronx, New York, but has called the Pacific Northwest her home since she moved to Oregon in 1975. Nancy earned a Bachelor of Science from the University of Wisconsin and a Master of Science from Oregon State University. She completed supervised work experience for earning her R.D. at the Oregon Health Sciences University.

Nancy has been interested in food and nutrition since college where she majored in Nutrition, and she describes her career as an evolution. Beginning in clinical dietetics research, Nancy's interests shifted to direct patient care through weight management groups, and then to teaching nutrition at the university level. Following her passions for health and outreach, her career has culminated in her current work with public policy advocacy. Nancy describes speaking with legislators about nutrition issues that she is passionate about and getting to know them personally as “incredibly rewarding”, especially if she was able to convince a lawmaker to vote “yes” on a bill!

Nancy joined the Public Health/Community Nutrition Practice Group (PHCNPG) when she began working with the OPHI. She was new to the field of public health and nutrition policy advocacy, and felt it was important to understand what other RDs were doing in these areas. She also had a strong interest in the environmental aspects of promoting healthy eating, and wanted to be among like-minded dietitians. Nancy describes her volunteer service with the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics as “most rewarding, both professionally and personally”. Nancy was recently appointed to the Academy's Committee for Professional Development, and she has previously served on the board for the Academy's Political Action Committee, ANDPAC. She was honored with the Academy's Award for Grassroots Excellence in 2009. Nancy is also a member of the Hunger and Environmental Nutrition DPG.

In her free time, Nancy enjoys cooking, politics and social action. She has been married for almost 30 years, and she and her husband enjoy going out dancing to live blues music. Nancy is a self-proclaimed “veggie lover”. Among her favorite vegetables are kale, broccoli and Brussels sprouts. In fact, Nancy's husband says that, “Brussels sprouts are her brand!” PHCNPG is proud of Nancy's work and appreciates her passion for nutrition policy advocacy!