

Celebrating 50-Year Members 2013

Clare Miller, MS, RD

*By Mary Thompson, Dietetic Intern
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Clare Miller has had an incredible career as a registered dietitian (RD) and has been very influential in child nutrition. Clare is from Louisiana and received both her undergraduate and graduate degrees from Louisiana State University. She joined the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics immediately after her dietetic internship and has been a part of the Public Health/ Community Nutrition Practice Group for many years.



Clare started her career at the local level and worked her way up to the federal level by the time she retired in 2007. Her initial position was in a clinical setting, since that was the natural path of a RD at the time, but after 5 years in clinical she soon realized her real passion was in child nutrition. In order to better prepare for advanced work in this area, Clare knew she had to return to school to obtain her master's degree. At the time it was mandatory to have a master's degree in order to be certified as a Child Nutrition (CN) Program supervisor in Louisiana. After she received her master's degree, Clare went on to work for the Louisiana Department of Education where she served as school food service supervisor for 11 years, monitoring and providing technical assistance to many different school districts. Next, Clare moved to a district CN Program position, where she was the food and nutrition service director of the Lafayette Diocese in Louisiana schools, supervising 37 school food service operations. After 10 years with the diocese, Clare moved up, yet again, to the federal CN Program level where she was excited to start making changes on the national level.

Clare started her work with USDA as the senior nutritionist for the CN Program where she was team leader of a special nutrition unit which provided training and technical assistance to state agencies and on nutrition standards and monitoring for the Child Nutrition Programs. Clare has had a lasting impression on the CN Programs. She was the lead for the development of the Healthy US School Challenge, a USDA initiative, which is now a part of the First Lady's Let's Move initiative. Clare stated she loved working at the federal level because she felt she was able to have the largest impact on CN Program nutrition policy.

As Clare climbed the ladder in her career she keeps close ties with members from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (the Academy) and was an active member in the

Public Health/ Community Nutrition Practice Group and the School Nutrition Program Practice Group. Clare has received the Academy's highest award, the Medallion Award, and strongly believes the Academy greatly helped advance her career. Clare found that her involvement with the Academy facilitated networking, finding job openings, and broadening one's horizons. During her dietetic career, she has seen the field expand way beyond clinical. Clare envisions continued expansion for dietetic practice in the future since preventive care is now taking center stage in health care. Clare has seen the salary and public recognition of dietitians increase over her career and believes it is a great time to be a part of the dietetics field.