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## **Yolanda Burt, MS, RD, CD-N Named Outstanding Director of the Year Award**

*Director of Foods and Nutrition Services for Hartford Public Schools Recognized by the School Nutrition Association of Connecticut*

(Hartford, CT) **May 16, 2012** - Yolanda Burt, MS, RD, CD-N, Director of Food and Child Nutrition Services for Hartford Public Schools, was recognized today by the School Nutrition Association of Connecticut (SNACT) with the **Outstanding Director of the Year** award, an annual honor given to a school nutrition director who manages effective programs and provides healthful, appetizing and nutrition meals to students. She was presented the award at SNACT's Annual Awards Banquet held at the Anthony's Ocean View Restaurant in New Haven.

Burt, who has more than 35 years experience in food services and more than 26 years in school nutrition, has been instrumental in ensuring all of her students in the Hartford Public School district are fed healthy meals during the school year and beyond. She is actively involved in the daily food operations of 45 schools, serving meals including breakfast, lunch, snack and supper to more than 18,000 students each day.

She is also a champion of summer meals, feeding more than 4,500 children for free, even while school is out. Last summer, an estimated 131,000 breakfast and lunch meals were given to children at no charge.

"Lonnie is a true mentor to her peers - her passion for food and nutrition, which extends far beyond her day job, is an inspiration," said Susan Maffe, Director of Food Services for Meriden Public Schools, and SNACT President-Elect. "We are so honored to be able to recognize her for her valuable contributions to the children and community that she serves."

Burt, a registered dietitian, also plays an important role in food service operations that extends beyond meals - including budgeting, staffing, training, marketing, as well as championing the benefits of these programs to students and the community.