

The Association of State Public Health Nutritionists Biographical Sketch of Candidates for 2026 Election

Candidate for the office of: Governance Committee

Name: Celine Heskey

Credentials: DrPH (Nutrition), RDN

Title: Associate Professor

Agency: Employed at a private university



ASPHN Activities:

- I attended the 2024 Annual ASPHN, which was the same year that I joined ASPHN
- I have actively participated in several continuing education/webinar events

Briefly describe why you are interested in filling this position:

- During 2025, we have all seen significant impacts to public health nutrition practice, which may have long-term implications to our profession. It has become more apparent that public-private partnerships can be beneficial for addressing gaps that are developing within the profession. By participating in the Governance Committee, I will have the opportunity to initiate my leadership involvement in ASPHN. Additionally, this will be an opportunity to provide additional support to local, regional, and national public health nutrition efforts that are quickly evolving in the current environment. By serving on the Governance Committee, I would help to shape the future of the organization by the thoughtful selection and nomination of candidates for the board. I will bring skills and knowledge related to problem-solving, research, and prior experience with the administration of non-profit professional organizations/initiatives, along with a diverse worldview to the team.

Other Related Activities (professional and/or personal):

- I am currently the program director of the MPH Nutrition Coordinated Program in the School of Public Health at Loma Linda University (Loma Linda, California). I have been in this role for 9 years.
- I have been serving on the Board of Directors of Food+Planet for 2 years, which is a nonprofit organization committed to educating health professionals about sustainable food systems.
- I have been a member of the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health (California), County Nutrition Action Partnership (CNAP) for 11 years. As a member of this network of public and private organizations, I have had the opportunity to support activities that address issues like food insecurity within San Bernardino County.

- I previously served as the assistant chair of the Nutrition Education Committee of the Adventist Nutrition and Dietetics International Association (ANDIA) – 3/2020 to 1/2023.
- I am a member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, and the American Society of Nutrition
- My research focuses on examining the benefits of whole plant foods on risk factors for cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes.