

# Leadership Award – Administrative/Supervisor Level

## Nomination Essay

Explain the reason(s) why you have nominated this individual for this award. Provide details and examples of how the nominee has applied his or her leadership skills, creative approach to leadership, and/or successful completion of an Association project. You can use as much space as necessary to answer the question completely. Refer to the judging qualifications on Page 1 for specifics on what to cover. There is not a minimum or maximum word count.

Gwen Freier is a great leader! Why, you say? I'll tell you! Gwen started her food service career in high school, she was 17 years old and a student helper in the department. She is now in her late 40's, you do the math. Through the years, she has held various titles and worn many hats. She is or has been involved with secretarial, technical, accounts payable, free and reduced processing, equipment ordering, food procurement/production, operations, human resources, as well as dish washer and "counselor", to name a few. Gwen is very involved in FSNA and SNA, Gwen has held various titles in our local association as well as at the state level. She was even one of the very first FSNA members to represent Florida at the Future Leaders Conference held by SNA. She really believes in what we do and loves to share with everyone the benefits of being a member with these organizations.

Gwen never stops wanting to help. We have a local chapter, Citrus County School Nutrition Association, we all work on fundraisers and other projects together and Gwen is always active with our undertakings. She will be out building a float, participating in a walk-a-thon or supporting with a fundraiser. A recent example of her dedication was her participation at one of our big fundraisers at the "Shrimpalooza". We raised money through selling shrimp for three scholarships for our high school students in Citrus County Schools. She was there from beginning to end.

Gwen is wholeheartedly committed to making the service to our students inviting and fun. A prime example was when I was lacking holiday decorations for a holiday, she made sure to bring some in for my kitchen and make it look festive. If you call Gwen about anything, for instance, equipment is down... she is on it! She will be sure to get it fixed as soon as possible. Ordering problems... she is on it! She will be sure that I have the products I need in no time. Gwen will go into kitchens and if other managers or myself do something different or impressive with our food items, and it works and makes it look delicious, she shares that success amongst all of us. Anything to improve all of our schools and make our food and products more appealing to our students and staff.

Gwen's enthusiasm for food service is so impressive. If staff is out of the kitchen, she comes in with a smile and says, "Where do you want me?" and she is up for any task. When we had to order a large quantity of food and my freezer was packed, I mean really packed, Gwen was at my school to help me reorganize my entire freezer.

Gwen is someone that I am proud to work alongside with for this crazy journey and I think she holds the perfect recipe for a great leader!

