Regional Nutrition Education Centers of Excellence
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NATIONAL COORDINATION CENTER
• University of Kentucky
  Dr. Ann Vail

FOUR REGIONAL CENTERS: ONE IN EACH NIFA REGION
• North Central Region
  Purdue University: Dr. Dennis Savaiano
• Northeast Region
  Cornell University: Dr. Jamie Dollahite
• Southern Region
  University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
  Dr. Alice Ammerman
• Western Region
  Colorado State University: Dr. Susan Baker

NUTRITION EDUCATION IS DEFINED BROADLY AS:
“Any combination of educational strategies, accompanied by environmental supports, designed to facilitate voluntary adoption of food choices and other food- and nutrition-related behaviors conducive to health and well-being. Nutrition education is delivered through multiple venues and involves activities at the individual, community, and policy levels.”

Definition adopted by the Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior and was authored by Dr. Isobel Content®, a leading authority in nutrition education. (Nutrition education: Linking research, theory and practice, Jones & Bartlett, 2007).

COMPLEMENTARY AND INTEGRATED COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACHES
• Nutrition education
• Nutrition marketing/promotion
• Policy, systems, and environmental change

RNECE OBJECTIVES
• Strengthen the evidence base: identify and confirm what works with diverse groups
• Evaluation long-term effectiveness of interventions
• Identify new research opportunities
• Identify and create research collaborations and synergy
  • Researchers and EFNEP/SNAP-Ed Program Directors
  • Universities and other implementing agencies
  • State and Federal agencies

NATIONAL COORDINATION CENTER RESPONSIBILITIES
• Coordinate communication among regional centers
• Aggregate and disseminate research findings
• Synthesize national data
• Conduct Regional Center reviews and annual directors’ meeting (in conjunction with NIFA)

REGIONAL CENTER RESPONSIBILITIES
• Build synergistic relationships, garner stakeholder input, and conduct research and environmental scans
• Plan, develop, and administer at least one signature research program that is targeted to meet an identified need in that region
• Administer and evaluate competitive sub-awards, using pre-established, center determined — and NIFA and FNS approved — project award and project evaluation criteria

Findings from the Regional Center projects will be communicated to all EFNEP and SNAP-Ed implementing agencies, the scientific community, and the general public.