

New Name, Same Commitment to Public's Nutritional Health: WV Dietetic Association Becomes WV Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

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CHARLESTON – The WV Dietetic Association, the state's largest organization of food and nutrition professionals, changed its name effective March 12, 2012 to the **WV Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics**.

Following the lead of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (formerly American Dietetic Association), registered dietitian and WVDA President Stacy Wellman, made the announcement change became effective January 1, 2012. West Virginia Academy Board members approved the new name and changed the organization's bylaws this month.

"This year, the **WV Academy** is celebrating our 70th anniversary as an affiliate of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. The new name not only follows the Academy's lead, but also better communicates that our members are experts in food and nutrition. Whether practicing in a clinical setting, diabetes care center or community nutrition program, the name '**WV Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics**' better communicates our capacity for translating the science of nutrition into a healthier lifestyle for the people of our state," said WV Academy President Stacy Wellman.

According to Sylvia Escott-Stump, President of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (Chicago), "The name **Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics** promotes the strong science background and academic expertise of our members, primarily registered dietitians. Nutrition science underpins wellness, prevention and treatment. An **academy** is 'a society of learned persons organized to advance science.' This term describes our organization and immediately emphasizes the educational strength of our advice and expertise."

"By adding **nutrition** to our name, we communicate our capacity for translating nutrition science into healthier lifestyles for everyone. Keeping **dietetics** supports our history as a food and science-based profession. Thus, the **Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics** quickly and accurately communicates our identity—who we are and what we do," Escott-Stump said.

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The **WV Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics**, is an affiliate of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. The Academy is the world's largest organization of food and nutrition professionals. We are committed to improving the health of West Virginians and advancing the profession of dietetics through research, education and advocacy. Visit www.eatrightwv.org for more information.