

## 2020 Joint Class Day Bios



**Kathleen Pellechia, MS, RDN** Communications Manager | FHI 360

Kathleen Pellechia, MS, RDN is a Communications Manager in the Social Marketing and Communication division of FHI 360, an international nonprofit working to improve the health and well-being of people in the US and around the world. She has over 17 years of experience in public health and nutrition, primarily on a nutrition education and training project of the national office of the WIC Program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. She has managed federal, state, and local nutrition and health communications initiatives – with a strong emphasis on women's health.

She is the Chair of the Nutrition Informatics Dietetic Practice Group for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and the President-Elect for the DC Metro Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Her expertise has given her the opportunity to write and present on the topic of nutrition informatics and communications in the US and globally. Kathleen is a registered dietitian nutritionist with a MS in Health Informatics from Northeastern University.



**Janell Walker, MPH, RDN** Nutritionist | USDA

Janell Walker is a registered dietitian and has worked as a public health nutritionist with a focus on healthy food access for almost 13 years. She received her bachelor's degree in Dietetics from the University of Maryland, College Park and her Master of Public Health degree from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Janell works as a Nutritionist for the USDA Food Distribution Division (FDD) where she is responsible for the evaluation, analysis, and technical guidance for nutrition-related issues of USDA Foods.



**Tamara S. Melton, MS, RDN, CPHIMS** Owner/Consultant LaCarte Wellness

Tamara Melton is a registered dietitian, educator, non-profit cofounder, informaticist and storytelling coach. She has over decade's experience in education and academia and has taught and advised thousands of students from diverse groups. Tamara spent several years at Georgia State University, working in as an advisor and admission counselor and a nutrition faculty member. She was then promoted to be the inaugural program director of the Lewis College's Health Informatics undergraduate and graduate programs. As program director, Tamara implemented several unique strategies to attract and retain BIPOC and first-generation college students in the health informatics programs. It was after witnessing the success that her students experienced in health informatics that Tamara got the idea for a nonprofit that would provide support strategies tailored to the needs of diverse dietetics students.

In 2018 Tamara co-founded Diversify Dietetics, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with a mission to increase the racial and ethnic diversity in the field of nutrition by empowering nutrition leaders of tomorrow. Tamara's personal area of dietetics practice focuses on quality and process improvement in healthcare practice. She obtained a graduate certificate in health informatics from Duke University. Tamara spent three years at Compass Group, working in national leadership roles in the healthcare and K12 sectors. She lead technology and quality improvement related projects for Compass Groups' foodservice clients and associates.



**Florence Ogunlesi, MA, RDN, LDN** Telehealth | Department of Veterans Affairs

Florence Ogunlesi is a Registered Dietitian who has worked in the field of clinical/community nutrition and home health for over 13 years. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Culinary Nutrition from Johnson and Wales University and a master's degree in Food Studies/Food Management from NYU. Her work experience in the field of nutrition has allowed her the opportunity to work as a Home Care Dietitian providing nutrition counseling for individuals with HIV & AIDS. She has also worked at one of the Nation's top-rated psychiatric hospitals providing nutrition and food therapy to adolescent and adult patients with eating disorders. She currently works at the Department of Veterans Affairs in the Home Telehealth Department providing weight-loss counseling and monthly CHF education classes to Veterans.



**Valerie Agyeman, RD** Communications Manager | Seafood Nutrition Partnership

Valerie Agyeman is a Women's Health Dietitian and Founder of Flourish Heights. Through her platform, she empowers women to prioritize their overall health and well-being. She helps women truly understand the powerful relationship between what they eat and how their body looks, feels and functions so they can make more wise, conscious choices while establishing a healthy relationship with food and their body. She is a trusted expert in food and nutrition and has been quoted in online publications like Cosmopolitan Magazine, Women's Health Magazine, TODAY and has made TV appearances on local networks including ABC's Good Morning Washington Show. She is a graduate of Radford University's DPD program and University of Maryland Dietetic Internship.



**Nancy Rozgony, MS, RD, LDN** Health and Nutrition Informaticist | Medstar Health

Nancy is a 1997 graduate of Florida State University (Biological Sciences), a 2005 graduate of the University of Delaware's Dietetic Internship and completed a Master's in Human Nutrition from UD in 2008. She is currently working as the Inpatient Glycemic Clinician at MedStar Montgomery Medical Center, where she promotes evidence-based diabetes management through use of standardized protocols and practices. Her background as both a research professional and clinician has resulted in her fervent interest in the practice of evidence-based care across the healthcare continuum. She has 15 years of clinical nutrition experience, as well as a diverse background in clinical research, business analysis, and software development. When she is not working or studying for the Diabetes Care and Education Specialist exam, Nancy enjoys yoga, pilates, (very slow) running, cooking delicious vegetarian food, being silly with her husband and two little boys, going to her kids' soccer games, and relaxing with a cold IPA and Netflix in her sweatpants.