

# USU MDA PRECEPTOR NEWSLETTER

## SPRING 2024

Master of **Dietetics  
Administration**

UtahStateUniversity



## Grateful to our Preceptors

April is National Preceptor Month! Everyone at the USU MDA would like to sincerely thank our preceptors. Your time, mentorship, and sharing of your expertise are very much noticed and appreciated. We could not do this without you!

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## Goodbye to the D&D Digital Match

The Internship Match has been used to connect students to supervised practice since the 1980s. After roughly forty years of the matching process, it is time to say good-bye. Concerns about the match include it's confusion to students, complicated rules can be broken, diversity is limited, and rising pre-select numbers add complexity as they have varying due dates and acceptance timelines. After extensive work done by the ACEND-appointed taskforce, the NDEP council and ACEND board voted to discontinue the match. The new application process will focus on increasing fairness to students and programs, streamlining steps, and limiting costs. All programs will use the Centralized Application System (DICAS), and have until fall 2026 to adapt. The new applicant notification due date is November 1, 2024, and students have until November 15, 2024, to inform programs of their decision to accept or decline.



# Good News!



Nikki Kendrick joined the faculty of the Utah State University in 2015 as a Clinical Assistant Professor. Nikki completed her dietetic internship at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in 2010 and later earned her master's degree in Dietetics Administration from Utah State University. Nikki also holds a certification in nutrition support. Nikki has assumed responsibility for being the main contributor to the clinical curriculum, has been the sole creator of the USU MDA website, and has taken the lead on arranging rotations for students in Utah. As of July 1, 2024, and after years of hard work and dedication, Nikki will be promoted to Clinical Associate Professor. Congratulations, Nikki!

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## Nutrition and Dietetic Educators and Preceptors

The USU MDA Faculty attended NDEP 2024 in Seattle Washington. Lacie Peterson, the Director of the USU MDA is also the West Coast Regional Director of NDEP. The meeting was successful-with learning centered around the RD exam, the new application process, and the future practice of dietetics. Representation from ACEND, the Academy Board of Directors, and CDR were present and shared insight on topics of importance for all program types.



USU MDA Faculty representation at NDEP 2024.



Maria was awarded the Outstanding Dietetics Educator Award at the 2024 NDEP Meeting.