

MS-AND 2026 Annual Conference Agenda  
 Theme: Seasons of Change: Cultivating the Future of Nutrition in Mississippi  
 April 9-10, 2026  
 Eagle Ridge Resort and Conference Center  
 Raymond, MS

MS-AND has applied for 11 hours of CEU, pending CDR approval.  
 This agenda is a draft and subject to change prior to conference.

April 9

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| 2:30 - 3:45 PM | Board of Directors Meeting<br>*Open to all<br>Location: Auditorium  |
| 3:45 – 4:00 PM | Welcome/Opening Remarks<br>Location: Auditorium   |
| 4:00 – 4:50 PM | <i>Growing Health Knowledge through Garden Education</i><br>Todd M. Davis, EdD, Associate Professor at Delta State University<br>Location: Auditorium                                   |
| 4:50 – 5:00 PM | Q&A (Learner Assessment)  |
| 5:00 – 5:50 PM | <i>Season of Change in Obesity Care: Cultivating the RDN's Role</i><br>Colleen Dawkins, FNP-C, RDN, CSOWM and Nadeeja Wijayatunga, MBBS,<br>MPhil, PhD, RDN, LD<br>Location: Auditorium |
| 5:50 – 6:00 PM | Q&A (Learner Assessment)  |
| 6:00 – 7:30 PM | Awards Dinner and General Business Meeting<br>Location: General Dining on Lower Level   |
| 8:00 – 8:50 PM | <i>Cultivating Ethical Professional Practice in the Nutrition Landscape</i><br>Lydia West<br>Location: Auditorium   |
| 8:50 – 9:00 PM | Q&A (Learner Assessment)  |

April 10

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| 7:00 – 7:50 AM   | Breakfast and Time with Vendors   |  |
| 7:50 – 8:00 AM   | Welcome and Opening Remarks<br>Location: Auditorium   |  |
| 8:00 – 8:50 AM   | <i>Keynote: From Rescue Missions to Garden Missions: Building Health Competency through School Garden Learning Centers</i><br>Todd M. Davis, EdD, Associate Professor at Delta State University<br>Location: Auditorium |  |
| 8:50 – 9:00 AM   | Q&A (Learner Assessment)  |  |
| 9:00 – 9:50 AM   | <i>2025-2030 Dietary Guidelines Update</i><br>Turner Sanderson, MS, RD, LDN, CNSC, SNS, CSCS<br>Location: Auditorium  |  |
| 9:50 – 10:00 AM  | Q&A (Learner Assessment)  |  |
| 10:00 – 10:10 AM | Break and Time with Vendors   |  |
| 10:10 – 11:00 AM | Academy in Action<br>Lisa Abbay, MBA, RDN, LDN, FAND;<br>House of Delegates Director<br>Location: Auditorium  | <i>Fuel for Thought: The Role of Iodine in The First 1,000 Days</i><br>Lauren M. Manaker, MS, RD, LD, CLEC<br>Location: Eagle's Way/Eagle's Nest   |
| 11:00 – 11:10 AM | Q&A (Learner Assessment)  |  |
| 11:15 – 12:05 PM | <i>Balance Beyond Avoidance: The Expanding Role of Nutrition Professionals in Food Allergy Care, Advocacy, and Research</i><br>Payton Robinson –Founder of The Allergy Strategy<br>Location: Auditorium                 | <i>From “Normal” to Optimal: Functional Lab Patterns Every Nutrition Professional Should Know</i><br>Phil Carson, DPh; President of Carson Natural Health, LLC<br>Location: Eagle's Way/Eagle's Nest |
| 12:05-12:15 PM   | Q&A (Learner Assessment)  | Q&A (Learner Assessment)   |
| 12:20 – 1:40 PM  | Bites and Bright Ideas: Lunch Abstract Poster Session<br>Time with Vendors<br>Location: Lunch and Abstract Session-General Dining on Lower Level<br>Vendors -Lobby/Outside Auditorium                                   |  |
| 1:45 – 2:35 PM   | <i>How We Talk Matters: Speaking the Language of Diabetes</i><br>Qula Madkin, MS, RDN, LDN, CDCES<br>Location: Auditorium   | <i>Seasons of Change: A Healthier Mississippi Through Lifestyle Medicine</i><br>Rebecca Turner, MS, RDN, LD, DipACLM<br>Location: Eagle's Way/Eagle's Nest   |
| 2:35 – 2:45 PM   | Q&A (Learner Assessment)  | Q&A (Learner Assessment)   |
| 2:50 – 3:40 PM   | <i>The Legacy Panel: 50 Years of Impact</i><br>Doris Schneider, Elise Smith, Lynn Moore, Merrell Rogers<br>Location: Auditorium   | <i>Weighting for the Waitlist</i><br>Joan Morris, MS, RD, LDN, CHES, CCTD<br>Location: Eagle's Way/Eagle's Nest  |
| 3:40 – 3:50 PM   | Q&A (Learner Assessment)  | Q&A (Learner Assessment)   |
| 3:55 – 4:45 PM   | <i>Social Determinants of Health for the Registered Dietitian</i><br>Rebecca Butz, MS, RDN, LD<br>Location: Auditorium  | <i>Mind over Meal: Understanding How Mental Health Influences Dietary Choices and Nutrition Outcomes</i><br>Danyella Terrell, LCSW<br>Location: Eagle's Way/Eagle's Nest                             |
| 4:45 – 4:55 PM   | Q&A (Learner Assessment):   | Q&A (Learner Assessment)   |
| 5:00 – 5:15 PM   | Closing Remarks and Door Prizes– Rebecca Bagwell  |  |

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|  | Location: Auditorium |
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