

Sarah Hendren
Nutrition & Quality Assurance Manager
Culver Franchising System, LLC

Sarah Hendren, MS, RDN, LD, CD, is the Nutrition & Quality Assurance Manager for Culver Franchising System, LLC. (CFS) the franchisor for over 670 Culver's restaurants in 24 states with over 25,000 team members. In this capacity Ms. Hendren is responsible for leading nutrition and quality assurance, providing regulatory guidance, and works closely with culinary, marketing and public relations to communicate Culver's commitment to quality and where their food comes from.

Ms. Hendren joined Culver's in 2013 as the organization's first registered dietitian and was promoted to Nutrition & Quality Assurance Manager in 2016. She is a member of the Culver's Menu Strategy Team and works closely with all departments and suppliers to implement strategic menu and food safety initiatives. She led the implementation of the uniform national menu labeling regulation, and continues to be the driving force behind the brand's commitment to simplify ingredients, reduce sodium, and remove partially hydrogenated oil, MSG and other ingredients from the menu. Her thought leadership and engagement in food policy at the national level helps to facilitate the implementation of innovative, evidenced-based initiatives that improve public health, food sustainability, and environmental impacts while remaining sensible to the needs of the food supply chain.

In addition, Sarah leads Culver's Agricultural Committee, gathering key internal stakeholders to discuss important issues in agriculture. Sarah holds a leadership position on the U.S. Roundtable for Sustainable Beef and is helping shape the development of Culver's animal care and handling positioning. Most recently, Sarah has been guiding the development of Culver's future sustainability targets.

Sarah is an active member in her professional community. She is currently serving as the Treasurer for the Dietitians in Business and Communications Dietetic Practice Group, the Director for the Northeast Region of the Texas Academy, and is the vice-chair on the National Restaurant Association's Nutrition Executive Study Group. In total, Sarah sits on three boards, representing over 7,500 food and nutrition professionals.

She has also been recognized as a leader in her field, earning numerous awards including *Recognized Young Dietitian of the Year* for Texas (2019), the *Circle Award* (2018) for her leadership in the business and food industry, and *Outstanding Dietetics Student of the Year* (2013).

Sarah earned a Master of Science degree in nutrition from Central Michigan University and a Bachelor of Science degree in nutrition and dietetics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Outside of work, Sarah volunteers for the DFW Lab Rescue, plays golf, and enjoys spending time with her family.