



Greetings from the Communication & News Committee! Welcome to our current E-BITE. Please enjoy and continue to share your news with us at usa.communications@iddsi.net

United States IDDSI Reference Group Newsletter for December 2021

Wishing you all a happy, healthy holiday season!

THE STATUS OF IDDSI EDUCATION AT UNIVERSITIES: A MINI-SURVEY OF US DIETARY PROGRAMS

The Communications/Newsletter Team wondered..."What are we teaching students about IDDSI?" In response, our team sent a mini-survey out to several Dietician and SLP university programs. To date, our small sampling includes responses from 10 universities across the US teaching IDDSI to both undergrad and graduate students. Please share this link <https://forms.gle/5eSDFtSo6ixPMbvy6> with any colleagues instructing or supervising at the university level they would be willing to share their IDDSI educational experience!

All 10 responses received were from dietetic programs; we are hopeful to replicate this survey with SLP programs as well (so please share out that link above!). Respondents to date include directors, assistant directors, professors and internship/clinical coordinators and supervisors associated with universities in Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, New York and Pennsylvania.

All eight (100%) of the classroom educators responding to the survey indicated that IDDSI was being taught at their affiliate university to undergraduate students, and 56% indicated that it was being taught to

graduate students. In contrast, subjective responses from SLPs identified in random, private discussions has indicated the opposite; that if IDDSI is being instructed, it is part of the graduate dysphagia curriculum. Variations in time spent on IDDSI within the responding universities was significant; some indicate 30 minutes or an hour lecture while others combine it with a hands-on lab that may span from 2-6 hours depending on the curriculum. The IDDSI website was consistently identified as the main resource for educational material used in class instruction.

There was a feature in the IDDSI E-Bite a few months back showing Massey University of New Zealand's collaborative IDDSI lab. This co-learning approach for SLPs and Dietitians could truly strengthen the relationship between our two professions. IDDSI success is built on interdisciplinary communication and our universities are the ideal place to start this initiative.