

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics “Diversity in Nutrition and Dietetics” Video Transcript and Audio Description

“Diversity in Nutrition and Dietetics” is a video compilation of clips from interviews with thirteen Academy members from different backgrounds sharing their perspectives and experiences.

Participants include: nutrition consultant Kamaria Mason, ACEND executive director Rayane AbuSabha, dietetics educator Terry Brown, dietetics student Christina Collazo-Velazquez; dietetics educator Long Wang, media dietitian Maya Feller, dietetics student Isa Soid Ramos-Castillo, dietetics educator Crystal Wynn, V.A. dietitian Jacqueline V. Bastiaans, clinical dietitian Wendy Wittenbrook, outpatient dietitian and chef Alicia Connor, and wellness dietitian and Academy spokesperson Kim Snodgrass.

The participants are sitting in a taping studio looking off camera. The participants are sitting in front of the camera, looking at the interviewer, who is not in the frame. In this video, they answer the question: “Why is diversity and inclusion important in dietetics?”

Kamaria Mason: “We have to think about when we're doing changes and we're trying to make change happen, you know who's at the table.”

Rayane AbuSabha: “Our patients are diverse and so they need somebody that they can relate to.”

Terry Brown: “It's important to be able to see a provider that looks like you. Sometimes that helps adherence to the nutritional plan or prescription.”

Christina Collazo-Velazquez: “Our diversity in our community of, you know, our profession of dietetics is important, because we can reach more people.”

Long Wang: “And to better serve this increasingly diverse population, we as a profession, our workforce, need to be more diverse.”

Maya Feller: “And when we expand diversity in the nutrition workforce, you have patients who do have those mirrors, right, they have the providers that look like them. I think we're better when there are more people from various backgrounds, people from different abilities. I think it really strengthens kind of how we think about nutrition and how we meet patients where they are.”

Isa Soid Ramos-Castillo: “If we have more diverse practitioners, we'll have patients that might feel more comfortable with those practitioners, establish that trust and just receive better quality care as well.”

Crystal Wynn: “I would like to see the face of dietetics change... diverse with unrepresented groups, diverse with members with disabilities... just a diverse profession.”

Jacqueline Bastiaans: “We're naturally going to have more buy in the more familiar, the more diverse we are as a body, to reach those communities.”

Wendy Wittenbrook: “I think it's important to be seen and included. Just knowing if somebody's out there like you can do this is so important.”

Alicia Connor: “This has nothing to do with the auditory experience or whether or not someone can see. Everyone on planet Earth wants to be seen and heard.”

Rayane AbuSabha: “Diversifying dietetics and the workforce is just going to help us serve the public that much better and be there for our patients, for our clients and for our students.”

Kim Snodgrass: “The sky is the limit and the Academy has made that possible because they've been addressing this issue head-on, and they're just moving forward.”

Kamaria Mason: “And we have to continue to explore that from an authentic place, really talking to more dietitians of color and those of diverse backgrounds, to see how this all plays together in the role as we're trying to promote health equity.”