

April Bennett is the Nutrition Program Manager at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County. She currently oversees the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) grant and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), serves as the six-county Regional Policy, Systems, and Environmental Change (PSE) Lead for the North Country SNAP-Ed Program, and coordinates the North Star Food Hub Nonprofit. April has more than thirteen years of progressive experience in the local food and nutrition field. Here at CCE, she facilitates the worksite wellness committee, has served as Farm to School Coordinator for the two largest districts in the county, facilitated the tri-county Adopting Healthy Habits Coalition, and participated in several research projects through Cornell combining nutrition education and PSEs. Prior to returning to her hometown, April served as the Founding Health and Wellness Manager for FirstLine Schools in New Orleans, coordinating and developing policies and programs to improve the health and wellness of an urban open-access public charter school district and its overall school community in partnership with the Louisiana Public Health Institute. She was also one of the founding staff members of Edible Schoolyard New Orleans, serving as the Lead Chef Educator for the nationally-renowned non-profit. During her time in New Orleans April was awarded “Best Community Role Model” as part of The Gambit’s Best of New Orleans List 2010 alongside Mayor Mitch Landrieu and NFL Saints’ Quarterback Drew Brees.

In 2010, April was chosen as one of a select group of chefs from around the country to help craft the Chefs Move to Schools toolkit for the USDA alongside White House Assistant Chef and Food Initiatives Coordinator Sam Kass and was one of the speakers at the launch of Chefs Move to Schools at Share Our Strength’s Healthy Kids, Healthy Schools Panel in Washington, DC.

April’s work has been featured nationally in newspapers, magazines, books, television, and film.

Highlights include: Chopped (aired January 2013), Jamie Oliver.com (November 2010), The Huffington Post (June 2010), Emeril Green TV Show (aired April 2010), Nourishing the Kids of Katrina: The Edible Schoolyard Documentary (August 2009), Louisiana Cookin’ Magazine (October 2009), and Good Housekeeping (February 2009).

April received her Chef’s Certification from the Natural Gourmet Institute for Health & Culinary Arts in New York City as well as her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting from Fredonia State University. In addition to a love of food and health, April is a busy mom of five girls and an avid performer with the Little Theatre of Watertown.