

Heather Plourde, Director of EASTCONN's Food and Hospitality Services

Heather has more than 25 years of managerial experience in the food and hospitality industry. After 5 years of owning and operating her own successful café and catering business, she joined EASTCONN in 2012, and started up EASTCONN Food Services. Under her guidance, EASTCONN became an approved sponsor of the National School Lunch Program by the State of Connecticut in 2012. Since the inception of EASTCONN Food Services, Heather has expanded the program into 15 schools in 6 different districts to ensure that more than 3,000 students have access to nutritious meals every day. In addition to offering school meals, Heather also opened up the Food for Thought Café that operates out of the Quinebaug Valley Community College campus in Danielson, which enables EASTCONN Food Services to provide a wide array of catering services both at the college, as well as off-site. The QVCC Food for Thought Café also offers vocational training for EASTCONN students.

Heather is a member of the School Nutrition Association and attends workshops and seminars on a regular basis to ensure that she and her department stay current with state regulations and guidelines. Along with being a self-taught chef, she has studied Hospitality Management and is currently pursuing a degree in Business Management at Albertus Magnus College. Under Heather's direction, EASTCONN's Food Services division has become a regional leader in food service delivery, through catering, event planning, café management, and the provision of the National School Lunch Program.

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