**Nutrition, Family and Consumer Sciences Area Cooperative Extension Advisor,**

**Stanislaus & Merced Counties**

**Position Title:** The Nutrition, Family, and Consumer Sciences Advisor will focus on family resource/money management, nutrition interventions and food safety with an emphasis on obesity and diet-related chronic disease prevention including associated relevant issues.

**Position:** The Advisor will conduct applied research and extension education programs in nutrition and food safety, with an emphasis on obesity and chronic disease prevention and family resource management including money and food resource management to increase food security and access. The Advisor will coordinate with public and private sector collaborators in nutrition and community health; seek external funding to supplement federally funded nutrition programs, home food preservation program and research related to the Healthy-Families and Communities and Sustainable Food Systems Initiatives; and develop nutrition education and policy relevant materials/briefs. The Advisor will provide academic leadership in the delivery of the UC CalFresh Nutrition Education Program (UC CalFresh) and the UC Master Food Preserver Program in Stanislaus and Merced counties and supervision of the UC CalFresh Nutrition Supervisor. A minimum of a Master’s degree is required in the areas of: nutrition, health education, human development, family and consumer sciences, family resource management or other closely related field. Experience in conducting applied research, program evaluation and education programs is required. Experience working with underserved and diverse populations is desirable. Strong leadership skills and experience in program and personnel management are highly desirable.

**Justification:** This position primarily addresses the Healthy Families and Communities strategic initiative Stanislaus & Merced Counties are ranked 38th and 45th in health outcomes and 41st and 54th in health factors, respectively, with high levels of poverty and need. According to the County Health Rankings and Roadmap, nearly 30% and 26% of adults are obese (Stanislaus has the third highest adult obesity rate in the state) and 19% and 27% of children live in poverty. Money management has a direct impact on food security and the ability to purchase healthy food. Population-wide obesity has serious health, economic, and social consequences for individual and for society at large. Building a society of healthy children, families and communities will require coordinated leadership at multiple levels and strategies must be crafted to ensure goals and processes of other sectors and statewide programs align. There are several trained Master Food Preservers in Stanislaus and Merced Counties that are only able to volunteer in San Joaquin due to limited capacity and academic oversight. With the sudden resignation of the past advisor in January 2018, it is critical for stability, community leadership and the continuation of UCCE programming and academic representation that this position is replaced and to continue to expand in these research areas.

**Extension:** The Advisor will provide academic leadership in developing and distributing financial literacy curriculum and training, including the UC CalFresh and UC Master Food Preserver program, through dissemination of practical resources and information to consumers, collaborative partners and professionals in Stanislaus and Merced Counties. The Advisor will link the university with community partners and collaborators with an emphasis in serving at-risk, low-income families, adults and youth-related organizations.

**Research:** The Advisor will assess and evaluate clientele needs that can be effectively addressed

through Cooperative Extension programs including, but not limited to, financial literacy, healthy lifestyles, food security, food safety and UC CalFresh aligned themes. The Advisor will collaborate with ANR Specialists and campus faculty in developing applied research projects, obtaining research grants, monitoring trends, identifying priority community needs and evaluating local program effectiveness. This position will make new contributions in the field of nutrition education through applied evaluation monitoring changes in nutrition programs and research studies addressing healthy behaviors to prevent childhood obesity and factors contributing to obesity. Publication outlets include Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior, California Agriculture, and Journal of National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences.

**ANR Network:** This advisor would be expected to interact with specialists, AES researchers and NFCS advisors through workgroups (such as Money Talks, Families with Young Children, and UCCE Connects to You!). Stanislaus & Merced Counties has the needs and resources to maximize the productivity of such an advisor for statewide as well as local benefit. It is expected that the advisor will interact with other staff at the local level and with faculty and specialists that are affiliated with nutrition at UC Merced and ANR, the Director of the Nutrition Policy Institute, Statewide Director of NFCS, Director of UC CalFresh and Center for Nutrition in Schools. UC CalFresh allows for the advisor to participate in on-going evaluation projects. The advisor’s county-based experience will contribute to the broad conversation about community health and wellness.

**Network External to ANR:** The advisor will be able to continue collaborative programming

that is established with agencies and community groups such as Stanislaus and Merced County Offices of Education, Ceres Unified School District, Modesto City School District, Merced City School District, Merced County Department of Public Health, Stanislaus County Health Services Agency, Catholic Charities, United Way of Stanislaus County, United Way of Merced County, Second Harvest Food Bank, East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District/Stanislaus Grown, and Regional Food and Nutrition Network of Stanislaus, Merced and San Joaquin Counties.

**Support (County):** The Stanislaus County Extension office is well supported. This NFCS advisor would have use of an office, a vehicle, storage facilities for program supplies, IT support services and communication resources (telephone and Internet). The Stanislaus County Agricultural Center facility has several meeting rooms available for use by the NFCS team. There is also ample cubicle space for additional educator staff. Travel to required programmatic meetings for UC CalFresh staff and the Advisor will be covered by UC CalFresh.

It is expected that the current support from UC CalFresh will continue.

**Location:** UCCE Stanislaus County.

**Developed and proposed by:** This position was developed by the UCCE Stanislaus County Director and the Statewide NFCS Director, Katherine Panarella with input from the Merced County Director. The position has been reviewed and is supported by David Ginsburg, Director, UC CalFresh Nutrition Education Program.