

NutriCore NorthEast Inc. Jan.-Mar. 2004 Activity Report

The NutriCore initiative truly became national in the past quarter with the establishment of regional hubs in California, Kansas, Louisiana, South Carolina, and Texas. As these new locations were becoming established, NutriCore NorthEast coordinator Alan Cotich and YCEDC President Darrell Auterson were regular sources of advice and information to facilitate their successes.

The exciting growth of the initiative along with the broad support from the public and private sector has triggered the decision to request full funding for all hubs in the next federal budget cycle. NutriCore NorthEast will take the lead role regarding the appropriations process in the Senate, while the Texas hub, with 7 congressman on key committees, will lead the effort through the House of Representatives.

The support of Arlen Specter, who is a key senator on the appropriations committee, was reaffirmed at a meeting with industry and government leaders in York on March 17th. His leadership, along with the support from the 13 other senators representing the NutriCore hub states, should assure success of most, if not all, of the funding measure.

Additional support for our initiative came within the FDA's Strategy to reduce obesity, which was released on March 15th. Among the recommendations was one that focused upon "strengthening research into the development of foods that are healthier and lower in calories with other HHS agencies, the USDA, and other public and private sector partners".

Locally, a meeting with all 14 stakeholders was held in January from which an advisory committee of 8 was formed to establish the foundation of a board of directors. Two meetings of that group have been held with a focus being funding and the scope and management of the initial research projects.

With the Federal Appropriations process expected to yield funds in the last quarter of this calendar year, NutriCore NorthEast has applied to the Ben Franklin Technology Partnership for the second year of a matching funds grant to maintain continuity of our Center of Excellence operations.

Finally, NutriCore NorthEast has been invited to join in a partnership with academic and community based organizations in development of a Keystone Innovation Zone proposed for York. Details of the KIZ proposal and application process are reported In the YCEDC's newsletter, Developments.

