The Future Connections Summit on Dietetic Practice, Credentialing and Education convened March 24-26, 2011. The Summit sought to identify innovative ways (pilot initiatives) so the profession can evolve and develop multiple levels of practice in a vibrant and challenging environment. To set the context for the summit’s work, participants explored the key changes in the environment facing the profession.

**Big Question**
How can delegates identify and engage members to help move the Summit pilot initiatives forward?

**Background**
A select group of 207 participants assembled in seven regional locations and virtually to participate in a collaborative experience of future search and design thinking. Over three days, they worked together in a future search to understand the profession’s future challenges and opportunities and discover a shared vision. Participants used design thinking to express that vision by developing design principles and proposing innovative initiatives to lead changes to achieve their vision. They did extensive reading to prepare for the summit. On the first day of the summit, the priority changes facing future practice, credentialing and education were identified. These changes set the context and urgency for what the profession must do. On day two, they defined the design principles that should guide the future development and integration of practice, credentialing and education. This is a shared vision the profession can work to achieve. On the final day, they proposed, organized and committed to more than 70 pilot initiatives. These are the prototypes for innovation and new directions.

**Future Vision**
The future vision for the profession is an expansive vision that will prepare RDs and DTRs with the knowledge and skills to lead a consumer-centered focus on food and nutrition and their relationship to health and wellness. The profession embraces multiple levels and multiple paths for entering and advancing in dietetics and welcomes new roles as members of interdisciplinary teams. Education and credentialing must evolve to support these diverse, emerging and adaptive careers in food and nutrition.

**Pilot Initiatives**
The success of the pilot initiatives will depend on the openness and sustained interest of the ADA organizational units. Each organizational unit is asked to study the design principles and discuss how each can be part of executing this shared vision. Then study the pilot initiatives and determine if the organizational unit would like to actively sponsor or encourage and serve in an advisory role for any of these initiatives. If the organizational unit wishes to support a pilot initiative, be sure to communicate this information to the Council on Future Practice. The Council on Future Practice is responsible for
monitoring and coordinating these pilot initiatives to keep the learning and momentum of this summit alive within ADA.

**Pilot Initiatives in Your Region**

Delegates and members should review information about pilot initiatives in their region by going to the full report. The report is in pdf format and each region is bookmarked allowing you to jump to your region. The full report is available at [www.eatright.org/hod](http://www.eatright.org/hod) > Fall HOD Meeting Materials.

**Region #1**- states included in region: Alaska, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming

**Region #2**- states included in the region: Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin

**Region #3**- Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Puerto Rico, and South Carolina.

**Region #4**- Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and Utah.

**Region #5**- Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee, and West Virginia.

**Region #6**- Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

**Region #7**- Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, and American Overseas

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The leaders of the ADA organizational units are invited to review this comprehensive report and consider how these organizational units can help realize and advance these design principles and encourage successful pilot initiatives. The champions for the pilot initiatives have agreed to lead the future and learn more about what it will take to grow as a multi-faceted and honored profession. They have committed to do the hard work of testing their ideas and innovations to drive change in practice, credentialing and education.

**What the HOD Needs from You**

Talk with your delegate(s) about the “big question” and initiatives in your region in advance of the Fall 2011 HOD Meeting (September 23-24).

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