RESULTS
• A total of 223 surveys (31.8%) were completed and returned with representation from all USDA regions.
• The majority of respondents were SN directors (89.0%) with SN managers and area supervisors also represented.
• School nutrition professionals:
  • perceived “environmental conservation” as supporting and promoting the protection of the environment (3.38 ± 0.5), and
  • believed that the sustainability of GEC practices depends upon administrative support (3.32 ± 0.6).
• School nutrition directors indicated that their primary roles in GEC efforts were as nutrition educator (56.0%) and role model (49.1%) to other school personnel.
• The top perceived benefits for implementing and sustaining GEC practices were:
  • providing a safe and healthier environment for students (3.2 ± 0.8) and
  • encouraging students to adopt lifelong conservation behaviors (3.2 ± 0.7).
• Perceived barriers that have prevented the sustainability of GEC practices in SN programs/schools included:
  • the lack of equipment and/or resources to support GEC practices (2.8 ± 0.8) and
  • cost (2.7 ± 0.9).
APPLICATION
The results from this study will be used to
• develop education resources and training to assist SN professionals with the identification of GEC practices in SN programs and the identification of SN roles for implementing and sustaining GEC practices; and
• develop a resource to provide guidance for implementing, evaluating, and sustaining GEC practices in SN programs.