California Food for California Kids®

School Food Innovator Series

March 24, 2022

Eric Span
Sweetwater Union High School District

Pilar Gray
Fort Bragg Unified School District

Kat Soltanmorad
 Tahoe-Truckee Unified School District
CALIFORNIA FOOD
FOR CALIFORNIA KIDS

California Food for California Kids is an initiative of the Center for Ecoliteracy
Agenda

● Welcome and Acknowledgements
● Welcome New Network Members
● School Food Leadership Skillshare: Guest Speakers
● Prize Giveaway: California-Grown Trivia
● Breakout Sessions: Guided Discussion
● Group Discussion, Presenter Q+A
● Resources
National Nutrition Month
Women’s History Month
Gathering Intention-Setting
Welcome to our New CFCK Network Members!
Tahoe-Truckee Unified School District

Kat Soltanmorad
Food Services Director
Tahoe-Truckee Unified School District
Tahoe-Truckee Unified School District
SMJUSD Harvest of the Month
Santa Rosa City Schools

Ed Burke
Director of Child Nutrition Services
Acalanes Union High School District

Rebecca Ward
Coordinator, Food Services & Safety

CALIFORNIA FOOD
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El Monte Union High School District

Suzy Sayre
Director of Nutrition Services
Morgan Hill Unified School District

Michael Jochner
Director of Food Services
Morgan Hill Unified School District
Capistrano Unified School District
Welcome to our New CFCK Network Members!
School Food Leadership Skillshare: Guest Speakers
Building Meaningful Connections and Staff Morale Strategies

Presented by: Eric Span, Director Nutrition Services

03-24-2022
Pandemic-Related Impacts to Staff

- Staff members were originally excited to provide support to our communities during the pandemic.
- Staff soon became overwhelmed with the amount of food we were providing.
- Some staff members and their families were affected by Covid-19.
- Staff members felt under appreciated for their efforts.
How We Responded to Their Concerns

- Ensured staff members received a stipend for their support
- Created a Nutrition Services Wellness Team
- Created listening sessions for supervisors, assistant 2’s and assistant 1 teams
- Created an Aspiration Tree to share inspirational messages
- Created a Team Member Spotlight program
- Connected Staff to Veba Member Services for access to support materials
- Held a Sushi Rolling Class for supervisors
Maria Navarrete is in the Kitchen Spotlight!

Maria works at Chula Vista Middle as an assistant 1. She was nominated by her supervisor because Maria is always ready to work, always willing to help her kitchen team, and maintains a good attitude even when the job can be hard. In March, Maria will have been in Nutrition Services for 28 years!

Her favorite thing about coming to work is the students! Maria enjoys working on the carts and selling snacks because she can have short conversations and get to know the students compared to working on the lines since they go so quickly.

Maria would describe herself as a happy person who enjoys coming to work. Her aspiration for the year 2022 is to finish the year without COVID.

Her favorite foods as a child were enchiladas (but they had to be chicken or beef), and chili relleno, and today those favorite foods haven’t changed! Her favorite place to eat out is Olive Garden and recommends getting the chicken alfredo!

Maria Navarrete’s message to the Nutrition Services department is to keep working hard, stay positive with the students, and find something to be thankful for every day!

Thank you, Maria Navarrete, for your dedicated hard work and great attitude!

Check out SUHSD virtual wellness room. They have resources for students and staff, games, sounds and music, guided meditations, and more!
Thank you

Questions?

Eric Span
Director Nutrition Services
Sweetwater Union High School District
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03-24-2022
Successful Community Partnerships for Farm to School Programming

Pilar Gray
Director of Nutrition Services
Fort Bragg Unified School District
FORWARD CONTRACTS
Local Food Hub
One of our Favorite Farmers!
What is a Forward Contract?

• An agreement between the farmer and school to deliver a quantity of a particular crop to the school at some point in the future for a specified price or in accordance with a pricing formula.

• Often established before the farmer plants the crops.

• Farmers will often offer better pricing for the predictability of the sales.
Procurement Considerations

• Whether or not you need to solicit bids from various vendors depends on the amounts you intend to purchase. Be sure to check current thresholds.

• We always do this under micro-purchasing, which makes this very simple!
  • Under $50,000.00
  • You still need to keep it fair; spread out purchases between different farmers if you can.
Sample Agreement

It is the intention of (school district) to purchase (product) from (farm) through (distributor).

It is the intention of (farm) to grow and sell (product) to (school district) through (distributor).

(District) is aware that if unforeseen crop failure occurs that the produce will need to be purchased elsewhere.

(Distributor or Farm) agrees to communicate within a minimum of five business days of scheduled deliveries with (school district) so other purchasing can be arranged.
Sample Agreement Continued

Product Name: Mixed Melons (cantaloupes, honeydew, etc.)
Total estimated quantity to be delivered: 120 lbs. per week
Anticipated timeframe for product harvest: Late July to end of September
When delivery will be made to FBUSD: Weekly, Mondays
Packing Requirements: Three 40 lb. boxes
Cost per pound paid to Mendo-Lake Food Hub: $0.86/lb.

Payment Terms and Process...
LOCAL BOUNTY DELIVERED

WWW.MENDOLAKEFOODHUB.ORG
Strengthening Skills in School Food Advocacy

Kat Soltanmorad
Director of Food and Nutrition Services
Tahoe-Truckee Unified School District
Educate/Organize/Act
School Food Advocacy

Kat Soltanmorad, RDN
Tahoe Truckee Unified School District
Instagram: @ttusdfood
Classroom

- Pathways Programs - Culinary
- SWEP Sierra Watershed Education Program
  - Green Teams (elementary)
  - Eco-Action (middle)
  - Envirolution Club (high school)
- Tahoe Food Hub
  - Giving Boxes
  - Farmers Market Program
  - Farm to School Programs
- Sierra Harvest
  - Chef in the Classroom
  - Farm Field Trips
  - Food Service Culinary Staff Trainings
- Tahoe Forest Hospital Wellness
  - BeFit
  - Harvest of the Month
Cafeteria

● Equitable pay
● Build and expand relationships with Dining staff
  ○ Work side by side with staff, visit kitchens and cafeterias
  ○ Provide training opportunities for all
  ○ Invite teachers, students and parents to tour and visit lunchrooms
● Support leadership opportunities for Dining staff
  ○ Participate in district wide meetings
  ○ CA School Nutrition Association
  ○ SNS Credential opportunities
● Facilities & Equipment
Community

LOCAL

- Procurement
- Town of Truckee
  - Sustainability & Conservation Programs
  - Organic Compost & Recovery
  - Equipment support
- Advocating for community support
  - Bond measures
  - Community fundraising
  - Parent involvement
  - Private/Public partnerships
- Nonprofit Partners

State/National

- Active participation
  - Invite & Meet with Representatives
  - CA School Nutrition Association Legislative Action Conference March 27-28!
  - Join organizations with the same mission and be an active participant!
Prize Giveaway: California-Grown Trivia
What is the official state fruit of California?
Avocado!
California is the only state in which this fruit is grown. Which fruit is it?
Figs!
Which county in California produces the most artichokes?
Monterey County!
Game Winners!
Guided Discussion: Breakout Rooms
Guided Discussion Questions

1. How are you keeping Farm to School activities going?
2. How is your staff doing right now?
   a. How are you keeping staff morale up?
3. What kinds of community partnerships do you have in your district?
   a. What have been successes and challenges in those community partnerships?
4. Are you involved in school food policy advocacy?
Group Discussion
Presenter Q+A
Resources

● CEL: Join the California Food for California Kids Network!
● CEL: Fresh from California Campaign
● CEL: Menu Planning Support Sessions (next session April 20!)
● USDA Local Agriculture Market Program Grants - due May 16
  ○ USDA: LAMP Grants Information
  ○ NFSN: Resources and Application Technical Assistance
  ○ Wallace Center: Application Resources
Thank you!

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