

California Food for California Kids<sup>®</sup>

# School Food Innovator Series

March 24, 2022

**Eric Span**

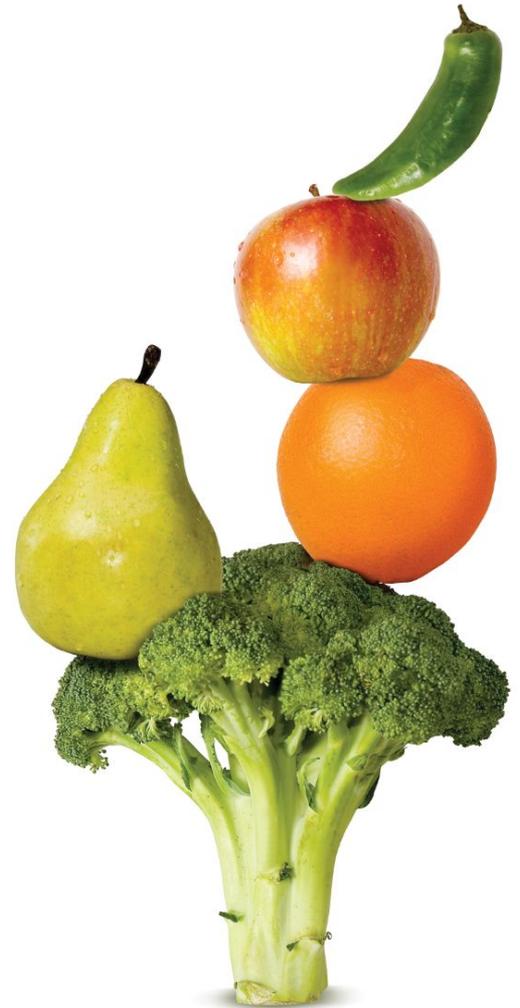
Sweetwater Union High School District

**Pilar Gray**

Fort Bragg Unified School District

**Kat Soltanmorad**

Tahoe-Truckee Unified School District





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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



**MARCH IS**

**WOMEN'S**  
**♀ HISTORY MONTH**

Gathering Intention-Setting

Welcome to our New  
CFCK Network Members!

# Tahoe-Truckee Unified School District

Kat Soltanmorad  
Food Services Director

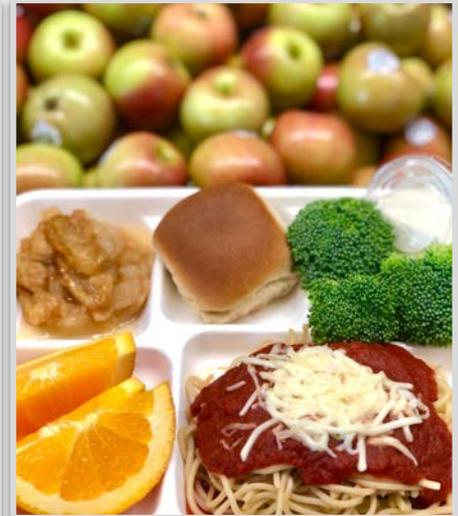
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# Tahoe-Truckee Unified School District



# Tahoe-Truckee Unified School District



# San Miguel Joint Union School District

Lauren Thomas  
Food and Nutrition Services  
Director

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# San Miguel Joint Union School District



# SMJUSD Harvest of the Month



# Santa Rosa City Schools

Ed Burke  
Director of Child Nutrition  
Services

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# Acalanes Union High School District

Rebecca Ward  
Coordinator, Food Services &  
Safety

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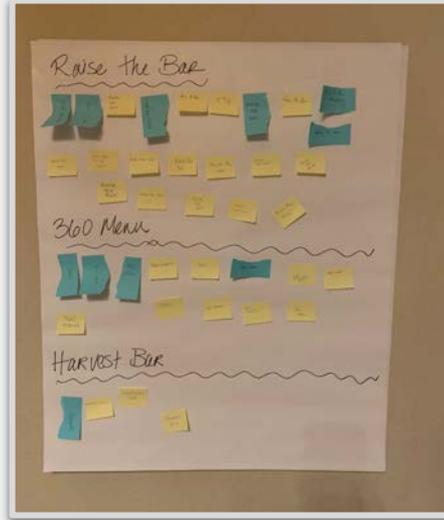
# San Ramon Valley Unified School District

Zetta Reicker  
Director of Child Nutrition and  
Warehouse

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# San Ramon Valley Unified School District



# El Monte Union High School District

Suzy Sayre  
Director of Nutrition Services

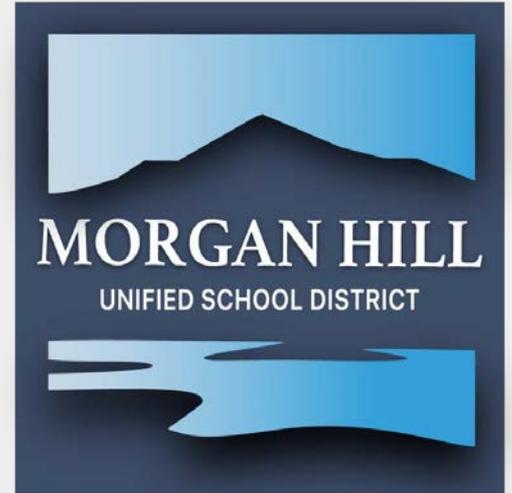
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# Morgan Hill Unified School District

Michael Jochner  
Director of Food Services

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# Morgan Hill Unified School District



# Capistrano Unified School District

Kristin Hilleman  
Nutrition Services Director

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# Capistrano Unified School District



# Capistrano Unified School District



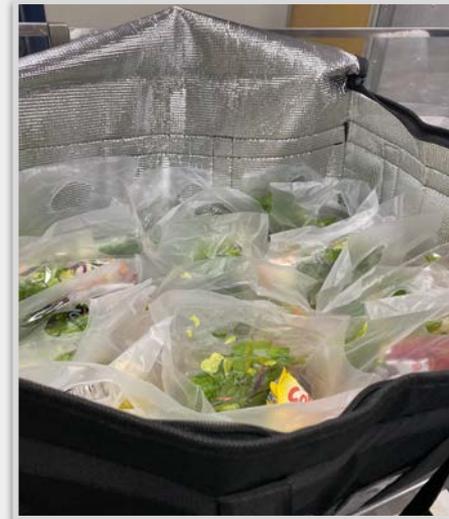
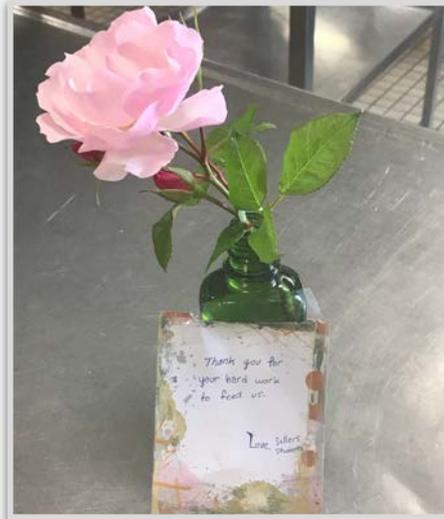
# Glendora Unified School District

Stacy Johnson  
Director of Nutrition Services



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# Glendora Unified School District



Welcome to our New  
CFCK Network Members!

School Food  
Leadership Skillshare:  
Guest Speakers

# Building Meaningful Connections and Staff Morale Strategies

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Eric Span

Director of Nutrition Services

Sweetwater Union High School District



**SWEETWATER**  
UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Building Meaningful Connections  
and Staff Morale Strategies**

Presented by: Eric Span, Director Nutrition Services



**SWEETWATER**  
UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

## **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



# SWEETWATER

## UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

### **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



# SWEETWATER

## UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Staff Wellness and Engagement

#### **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!**



**SWEETWATER**  
UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Sushi 101



03-24-2022



**SWEETWATER**  
UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Thank you**

**Questions?**

Eric Span  
Director Nutrition Services  
Sweetwater Union High School District  
[eric.span@sweetwaterschools.org](mailto:eric.span@sweetwaterschools.org)

03-24-2022

# Successful Community Partnerships for Farm to School Programming

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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

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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

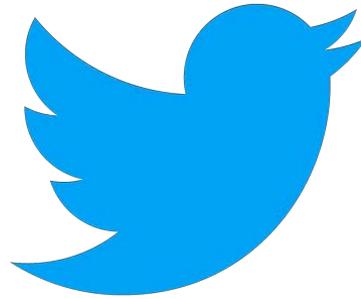
# Resources

- 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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