



nourishing the cycle ~ from earth to table

Davis Farm to School Connection Highlights Davis School Lunch as a Model for “Going Green”

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Davis Farm to School Connection Steering Committee members, Jamie Buffington and Dorothy Peterson, were invited by Raphaelita Curva, incoming President Elect of the Davis Joint Unified School District Student Nutrition Services, to speak at a conference focused on “The Greening of School Lunch”. On Friday, November 14th, the Mother Lode Chapter #45 of the School Nutrition Association, an affiliate of the Student Nutrition Association, brought together over 60 interested food service directors, representatives from the California Department of Education, food sellers, and green food service product merchants for a morning of presentations and networking in Sacramento. The invitation was an honor for the Davis Farm to School Connection, and yet another tribute to the successful partnerships that make Davis School Lunch a model program for “going green” at the school level.

Jamie and Dorothy encouraged conference participants to examine the “Carbon Footprint” of their school lunch by asking “Where does this food come from? How is it packaged, and in what?” The two reviewed the many accomplishments of the Davis Farm to School Connection that contribute to an increase in local foods and a reduction in waste in Davis School Lunch, such as student farm field trips, seasonal plantings in school and community gardens, cooking classes for food service staff, and recycling programs at school sites. This latter topic sparked exceptional interest as Dorothy highlighted the DavisRISE (Recycling Is Simply Elementary) Program. Since the DavisRISE Program was accepted by DJUSD as a credible program five years ago, the elementary sites have reduced the solid waste stream and garbage costs to the district by 60%. This program is a model of financial sustainability as it has funded itself through savings of garbage bills at school sites since the fall of 2004. The RISE philosophy has now migrated to the secondary grades by the elementary students as students take ownership of the program and insist on comprehensive recycling programs at their schools.

Few of these accomplishments would be possible without the school district's willingness to embrace change and assist students in being part of the “Going Green”

solution at their school sites. The district has shown strong support for the DavisRISE program through their Solid Waste Management Policy, passed on _____, and made a commitment to local, seasonal produce in school lunch in their Memorandum of Understanding with Davis Farm to School Connection passed on _____. Furthermore, this fall saw the beginning of monthly meetings between the Student Nutrition Services and Maintenance and Operations to examine energy and water use, waste, and general staff education. The Davis Joint Unified School District is continually carving out new territory to encourage the national movement of greening the school lunch program. In fact, Jamie and Dorothy's presentation highlighting the successful partnerships of the Davis Farm to School Connection was so well received that the Mother Lode Chapter of the Student Nutrition Association has planned a visit to Davis to see the programs in action later this school year!

For more information about the Davis Farm to School Connection, please see www.davisfarmtoschool.org. For more information about the DavisRISE program, please see www.davisrise.org. For more information about Davis School Lunch, please see www.djusd.net/district/business/sns/.