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## KICK-OFF CHEF COMPETITION MARKS 3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL D.C. FARM TO SCHOOL WEEK & INAUGURAL NATIONAL FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH

WASHINGTON, DC – The D.C. Farm to School Network at the Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food & Agriculture announced today that the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual D.C. Farm to School Week will be held October 3 – 7, 2011. During this year's events, schools across the District will feature farm-fresh, local foods in school meals, and coordinate hands-on food and nutrition education activities for students. A kick-off celebration will feature four local chefs battling to create the tastiest seasonal salad for a panel of esteemed judges. Chefs will use D.C. school garden produce and a pantry of items furnished by Whole Foods to make "top-chef" style salads, engaging an audience of over 200 students and community leaders. Student-led tours of the school's garden will follow.

The kick-off event will take place on **Monday October 3, 2011 at 2 p.m.** at the Thurgood Marshall Academy Public Charter High School and Savoy Elementary School shared gymnasium, located at 2427 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue in Southeast Washington, DC.

The event will also commemorate and kick off nationwide celebrations for the first ever National Farm to School Month, designated by a House Resolution passed in November 2010. White House Executive Pastry Chef Bill Yosses will emcee the event and the list of other V.I.P. guests and speakers will be announced as the event nears.

Please RSVP by emailing [RSVP@dcfarmtoschool.org](mailto:RSVP@dcfarmtoschool.org). For more information about D.C. Farm to School Week, please visit [www.dcfarmtoschoolweek.org](http://www.dcfarmtoschoolweek.org). View pictures and quotes from D.C. Farm to School Week 2010 at [www.storiography.com/50voices](http://www.storiography.com/50voices).



Chef Lauren Von Der Pool prepares samples for students at the 2010 D.C. Farm to School Week kick-off celebration.

**High-resolution photos available upon request.**

Photo: Christiana Aretta Photography

The D.C. Farm to School Week kick-off event is brought to you by the following organizations:



**The D.C. Farm to School Network** is a program at Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food & Agriculture that works to improve the health of D.C. schoolchildren, our environment, and our local food economy. We help schools incorporate more healthy, local, sustainable foods into their cafeteria meals; and engage students in the farm-to-table process through farm field trips and hands-on food education. For more information, visit [www.dcfarmtoschool.org](http://www.dcfarmtoschool.org) or [www.dcfarmtoschoolweek.org](http://www.dcfarmtoschoolweek.org).

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**Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food & Agriculture** is a non-profit organization established to create a more equitable and sustainable local food system. We aim to raise awareness about healthy food and its sources, and establish innovative connections between local farms and consumers. Arcadia's program areas include the Arcadia Farm, Mobile Market, Food Hub, and D.C. Farm to School Network. For more information, visit [www.arcadiafood.org](http://www.arcadiafood.org).



**Office of the State Superintendent of Education Department of Wellness & Nutrition Services** supports farm to school and school garden programs as mandated in the Healthy Schools Act by conducting needs assessments, providing technical assistance, and coordinating the efforts of service providers. For more information, visit [www.osse.dc.gov](http://www.osse.dc.gov).

Contact: Sam Ullery, School Garden Specialist, 202-741-6485, [sam.ullery@dc.gov](mailto:sam.ullery@dc.gov)



**Whole Foods Market** has been an advocate for school lunch reform and supported healthy eating education for children for many years. Last year Whole Foods Market Mid-Atlantic region raised \$273,108 for the Salad Bar Project, which helps bring fresh fruits and vegetables to school lunch programs and has funded 570 salad bars in schools across the country. Their School Garden Grant Program will help schools build educational school gardens. For more information, visit [www.saladbars2schools.org](http://www.saladbars2schools.org), [www.wholekidsfoundation.org](http://www.wholekidsfoundation.org), and [www.wholefoodsmarket.com/company](http://www.wholefoodsmarket.com/company).

Contact: Defausha Hampton, [Defausha@organicworkspr.com](mailto:Defausha@organicworkspr.com)



**National Farm to School Network** increases access to local food and nutrition education to improve children's health, strengthen family farms, and cultivate vibrant communities. National staff, Regional Lead Agencies and State Farm to School Leads support Farm to School activities nationwide through work in the priority areas of training and technical assistance, policy advocacy, information services, media and marketing, networking and research. For more information, visit [www.farmtoschool.org](http://www.farmtoschool.org).

Contact: Chelsey Simpson, [chelsey@farmtoschool.org](mailto:chelsey@farmtoschool.org), 405-684-7608



**Thurgood Marshall Academy Public Charter High School** serves 390 students in grades nine through twelve and is the highest performing open-enrollment high school in the District. TMA successfully combines a comprehensive, college preparatory curriculum with complimentary education in law, democracy, and human rights. For more information, visit [www.thurgoodmarshallacademy.org](http://www.thurgoodmarshallacademy.org).

Contact: Jessica Sher, Director of Strategic Partnerships, 202-563-6862 x149, [jsher@tmapchs.org](mailto:jsher@tmapchs.org).



**Savoy Elementary School** is a public elementary school that was modernized in 2009 and is the only LEED Gold certified school in Washington, DC. Students at Savoy share a partnership with Beveridge and Diamond Law firm and they will engage in courses regarding environmental law. For more information, visit [www.dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/savoy](http://www.dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/savoy).