



Sodexo Celebrates PHA Partner of the Year

On November 17, Sodexo scored the first-ever Catalyst for Change Partner of the Year recognition by the [Partnership for a Healthier America \(PHA\)](#). PHA, a nonpartisan, non-profit organization chaired by First Lady Michelle Obama, is led by the nation’s most respected health and childhood obesity advocates. Sodexo received this distinction out of 200 eligible PHA partners by executing key strategies to serve populations disproportionately impacted by obesity. PHA CEO Lawrence A. Soler notes “When forming this partnership with Sodexo, PHA was well aware of the company’s widespread potential impact across the food

industry, but we are now seeing the tremendous results of its efforts. Sodexo has been a stellar partner and I am proud to recognize them as Partner of the Year.” Sodexo’s contributions fueled by metrics-driven PHA commitments centered on educating young consumers and their parents, providing healthier vending options and implementing Smarter Lunchroom tactics. Sodexo successfully served an additional 17 million free breakfasts in primary and secondary schools!



Healthy High School Challenge Winners Announced

The Healthy High School National Challenge is an exciting annual event designed to drive sales and participation, reinforce the importance of making healthy food choices with our students and help build ongoing excitement around your foodservice program. Sodexo-managed high school programs compete to out-perform each other by earning points for served reimbursable meals and healthy a la carte snacks and beverages. The more meals, healthy snacks and beverages you serve, the more points your school will earn toward winning the challenge and the Top Prize of \$5,000.



Of the 295 high schools that participated in this year’s challenge this past October, we’re excited to congratulate the following schools for winning BIG:

- \$5,000 - Grand Prize - Washington High School in Indiana
- \$2,500 - 2nd Place - Roseburg High School in Oregon
- \$2,500 - Top Snack & Beverage - Bucyrus High School in Ohio
- \$2,500 - Top Combo - Georgetown High School in Texas

The top two \$1,000 Spirit Awards go to West Warwick High in Rhode Island and Gatesville High in Texas for their outstanding videos depicting school spirit. Honorable mention and \$500 go to Stilwell High School in Oklahoma, as well as Millard North, Millard South and Millard West High Schools from Nebraska for their video submissions. [View the entire ranking list and all Spirit Award entries.](#) Thanks to all of you who participated in this year’s HHSC! Enrollment for next year’s challenge will take place in May 2017, stay tuned.

Collaboration + Innovation = Breakfast Win for South Carolina Students

Challenged to stretch budget dollars, school districts must find innovative ways to expand wellness programs and increase student participation in school breakfast. For Jessica Perez, a leading Sodexo registered dietitian, this challenge became an opportunity to collaborate with community leaders on a healthy breakfast solution for Beaufort County Public Schools in South Carolina. The solution started with asking key questions: What healthier options would students want to eat for breakfast? The team engaged students for ideas and leveraged findings from the Smarter



Preparing for Winter

With the change in weather, checking and changing filters is very important for all heating systems. In particular, heat exchanging heating systems need to be cleaned to ensure accumulated dust particles on the exchanger won't wind up in the filters.

Another important item is checking snow removal equipment. Although equipment may be serviced prior to storage in the off months, equipment should still be checked before use. For safety's sake, never operate gasoline or diesel powered equipment in an enclosed space or in school buildings. Not only can the accumulation of carbon monoxide seriously injure the operator, it can also introduce carbon monoxide (carbon dioxide for a diesel engine exhaust) into the ventilation system. Always store fuel in approved containers and in lockers for flammables.

Consider the use of environmentally friendly ice melt instead of rock salt. While more expensive, ice melt is more effective at lowering temperatures than rock salt, won't cause concrete to spall and is not harmful to plants or grass in normal concentrations. Thanks for making safety at schools a top priority!

Lunchrooms Movement to focus on providing varied food options to drive consumption and reduce waste. The result: A make-your-own parfait station for students to build their own breakfast with healthy options including a variety of yogurt, fruit, whole grain cereals and USDA approved toppings. Added bonus: The parfait station doubled as a salad bar for healthier lunches.

Next question: How will the team pay for this solution? Working with the Beaufort County Public schools, Jessica and the team successfully applied for and secured three grants for the *Fuel Up to Play 60* totalling

\$41,000. *Fuel Up to Play 60* is an in-school nutrition and physical activity program launched by the National Dairy Council and NFL, in collaboration with the USDA, to help encourage today's youth to lead healthier lives.

After a successful pilot, the program was expanded to all schools in the Beaufort County District and featured in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Week events. Impressive statistics include over 27,000 portions of yogurt served over a five-month period and about 550 more breakfast meals per month compared to 2015.

Decorating the Safe Way

Follow these tips to safely hang decorations at home and school:

- ⇒ Use caution when reaching into storage containers for decorations that may be broken. Check all decorations for broken pieces and discard as needed.
- ⇒ Check bulbs (before plugging light in) and inspect lights for broken wires or loose connections.
- ⇒ Make sure all hangers and fixtures are substantial enough to securely hold wreaths. Most wreaths are hung with wire which weakens over time due to continuous twisting. Pay particular attention at elementary schools where little hands may pull decorations down.
- ⇒ Check the School District's policy on holiday decorations to comply with current diversity, energy conservation and safety policies.

