

E-Newsletter

April 11, 2016



You Are Invited to Hear National Salad Bar Expert Rodney Taylor at April 16 Salad Bar Summit

- - We still need parents from Baltimore County, Baltimore City and Howard County to attend the full summit - please e-mail info@healthyschoolfoodmd.org if you can represent your county at the summit.

If you haven't heard of Rodney Taylor, you'll want to. He is a dynamic and inspiring speaker, pioneer and expert in revolutionizing school nutrition. He is nationally known for his Farmers' Market Salad Bars, which he established in 1997 while working as director of Food and Nutrition Services in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District in California. Subsequently, he worked for the Riverside Unified School District in California, where he introduced daily salad bars in all 31 elementary schools, with 40-60% of the produce procured from local farmers. His other innovation, the Salad Bar First program, involved directing all children through the salad bar, and redeploying staff to assist and encourage kids to eat a rainbow, while leaving only the hot entrée in the serving line. This fall, Mr. Taylor was recruited to be the new director of Food and Nutrition Services for the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) in Virginia, with the help of our friends at Real Food for Kids in Virginia.



Mr. Taylor will be the keynote speaker in Healthy School Food Maryland's Salad Bar Summit on April 16 at the Universities at Shady Grove in Rockville. The keynote address will be from 9:00-10:30 a.m. Tickets for adults are \$10 and for students are \$5. Workshops following the keynote address (until 12:30) are by invitation or application only, so that there is an adequate representation from every school system invited (Montgomery, Baltimore, Frederick, Carroll, Howard, Anne Arundel and Prince George's counties and Baltimore City). Please e-mail info@healthyschoolfoodmd.org if you would like to come to these workshops, and include your role as a stakeholder and your school district. [Purchase tickets here.](#)



Rodney K. Taylor | Aetna African American History Calendar 2016

Mr. Taylor is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including the California Endowment's Health Heroes Award, Loma Linda University Award for The Promotion of Healthy Lifestyles – For Outstanding Commitment to the Public's Health, The Riverside Human Relations Commission Heroes Award, and the NAACP Education Award.

Legislative Update

Unfortunately, with the end of the legislative session nearing, it looks like both bills put forth by Healthy School Food Maryland this year will die in committee. Unfortunately, under the current structure and practice of the Maryland's General Assembly, not every bill that has a committee hearing gets a vote. Therefore, if the chairperson of the committee or subcommittee in charge of your bill (which for us in the Senate is Education, Health and Environmental Affairs and in the House of Delegates is Ways and Means, Education Subcommittee) does not wish to bring the bills to a vote, they don't get a vote. As they say, there's only one way to pass a bill but 1,000 ways to kill one. We're sad to once again see all this effort come to nothing, but are thankful for all the parent and community support we had in testimonies, e-mails, and phone calls to legislators and committee chairs.



Lindsey Parsons (right) with Del. Diana Fennell, (2nd from right) testifying in support of School Food Transparency Act

His plan in FCPS, in addition to starting salad bars, is to offer healthier a la carte items for the early grades, reduce processed foods, and replace those foods with fresh foods and scratch cooking whenever possible, to ensure healthy, wholesome meals to children. His vision is to change perceptions about school food service, by bringing in fresh and local foods. [Get your tickets now for the Salad Bar Summit!](#)

School Food Grades

We're glad to announce that we will have help of a group of ten Dietetic Internship students from the University of Maryland College Park to help us start the research for our School Food Grades program on April 11 as part of their internship program. We're excited to have their help with this giant project, and as a result, are hopeful to be able to finish the grades by the end of the school year. If you are interested in helping out in your county or any other county with some of the research please contact Lindsey at info@healthyschoolfoodmd.org.



Members of the Maryland Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee - Sen. Cheryl Kagan (left), Sen. Steve Waugh (right)

Mission: Healthy School Food Maryland is a coalition of organizations and individuals in Maryland working for whole, real, local and safe foods for children in Maryland school cafeterias.

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