

During fall semester 2013, University Dining Services initiated and hosted a series of *Uncomfortable Dinners* with a goal of recommending a working platform of sustainable food for the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Campus. The Uncomfortable Dinners have built a network of campus relationships and provided a framework for discussing issues and exploring sustainability in food and food systems.

Discussions included campus food systems, sustainable agriculture on both a local and global scale, cooking skills, communal dining and the intersection of sustainable food and business. Dinner topics were collaboratively built with the following key contributors:

- Shane Stennes, Interim Chief Administrative Officer and Sustainability Coordinator,
- Valentine Cadieux, Researcher, Professor of Geography,
- Lewis Gilbert, Associate Director Institute on the Environment and
- Courtney Tchida, Manager Cornercopia Student Organic Farm.

In addition to these key contributors, please see attached list of dinner attendees who had the opportunity to provide input.

### ***Sustainable Food Platform – University of Minnesota Twin Cities Campus***

*The University of Minnesota recognizes the important role food and dining play in supporting a sustainable food system both locally and on a global scale. Among the diverse goals of sustainable food we strive to:*

- *Increase food literacy by considering the full food spectrum from how food is grown and produced, the health benefits of a particular food and the social and environmental impact of food choices*
- *Foster discussion in support of a stronger campus cross-disciplinary collaboration between students, faculty and staff to improve the overall food community at the University of Minnesota*
- *Build a vibrant, locally oriented food system by fostering relationships and a deeper understanding of local food systems with students, faculty, staff, farmers, producers, distributors, parents, healthcare professionals and the community*
- *Strengthen local economies by expanding markets for small and mid-size agricultural producers and food entrepreneurs*
- *Advance environmental stewardship, where practicable, by supporting more sustainable food production methods, reducing reliance on long distance transportation and reducing food and packaging waste*
- *Support of farmers and food service workers by providing a fair work climate*

*Our definition points to systems in balance, integrating environmental, health, social and economic concerns. Within this definition of sustainable food, it is our belief that University constituents can embrace and advance these goals, with the understanding that this working platform will be continually discussed and evaluated to insure they are evolving in support of the institutional mission.*

## Dinner Attendees and Contributors

### University of Minnesota Faculty

Jennifer Breen	Lecturer, Food/Agriculture/Natural Research
Valentine Cadieux	Researcher –Professor of Geography
Kimberly Byrd	Professor, Conservation Biology
Matteo Convertino	Assistant Professor, School of Public Health
Colin DeYoung	Professor, Psychology
Julia Grossman	Professor, Horticulture Science
Jennifer Gunn	Professor, History of Medicine
Naomi Scheman	Professor, Philosophy Women’s Studies
Jason Hill	Professor, Bioproducts/Biosystem Engineering
Nicholas Jordan	Professor, Agroecology
Barry Kudrowitz	Professor, Design, Housing and Apparel
Mindy Kurzer	Professor, Food Science and Nutrition
Peter Mercer-Taylor	Professor, School of Music
Tim Smith	Professor, Bioproducts/Biosystems Engineering
Katherine Venable, MD	Professor, School of Medicine
Zata Vickers	Professor, Food Science and Nutrition

### University of Minnesota Students:

Graham Ambrose	Student Intern, Cornercopia
Mariah Frank	Undergraduate, College Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Science
Justin Halverson	Undergraduate, Liberal Arts
Tasha Lepage	Undergraduate, Liberal Arts
Marta Monti	Graduate Student, Public Affairs
Mary Oldham	Graduate Student, Public Affairs
Tyler Redden	Undergraduate, Liberal Arts
Bailey Rockwell	Undergraduate, Bioproducts/Biosystems Engineering
Moriah Maternoski	Undergraduate, College Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Science
Jeffrey Tierney	Undergraduate, Bioproducts/Biosystems Engineering

### University of Minnesota Staff:

Leslie Bowman	Director, Contract Administration
Barrett Colombo	Coordinator, Institute on the Environment
Dana Donatucci	Recycling Supervisor, Facilities Management
Sharon Fischlowitz	Coordinator, Institute on the Environment
Kaitlyn Flick	Research Assistant, Institute on the Environment
Lewis Gilbert	Associate Director Institute on the Environment
Beth Mercer-Taylor	Sustainability Education Coordinator, Institute on the Environment
Helene Murray	Executive Director, MN Institute for Sustainable Agriculture
Amy Short	Sustainability Director, Office of Sustainability
Shane Stennes	Interim Chief Admin Officer/Sustainability Coordinator
Courtney Tchida	Student Personnel Coordinator – Cornercopia
Susan Stubblefield	Director, Housing Residential Life
Stacey White	Sustainability Coordinator
Elspath Iralu Wright	Research Assistant, Department of Sociology

University of Minnesota Alumni:

Laura Dorle	President, U Students Like Good Food
Eric Sannerud	Sandbox Center for Regenerative Entrepreneurship

Community Members:

JoAnne Berkencamp	President, Tomorrow's Table
Rhys Williams	Sales Manager, Co-op Partners Warehouse
Bertrand Weber	Director Culinary and Nutrition Minneapolis Public Schools
Lori Zuidema	Director Business Development, Co-op Partners Warehouse

Aramark –University Dining Services Staff:

Jenna Brott	Health and Wellness Coordinator, University Dining Services
Karen DeVet	Director, University Dining Services
Daniel Kraft	District Marketing Manager, University Dining Services
Alyssa Lundberg	Sustainability Coordinator, University Dining Services
Scott Pampuch	District Executive Chef, University Dining Services