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Students win \$5,000 grants to fight hunger

Video competition sponsored by Sodexo Foundation supports top three schools with the most votes to launch a Campus Kitchen

March 9, 2015 – Washington, DC – The Campus Kitchens Project, a national organization that empowers student volunteers to fight hunger in their community, today announced Merrimack College, Virginia Tech and University of Houston won grants through a launch grant video competition sponsored by Sodexo Foundation. From March 2 through 9, 4 universities from across the country competed in an online video competition to win a grant to start their own Campus Kitchen, providing free, healthful meals to those in need by using donated food that would otherwise go to waste.

The top three schools with the most votes for their video and who will go on to launch their own Campus Kitchen are:

- Merrimack College – North Andover, MA
- Virginia Tech – Blacksburg, VA
- University of Houston – Houston, TX

In order to qualify as a finalist for the competition, students from around the country [submitted a video](#) explaining why their community would benefit from a Campus Kitchen.

At each of the 42 Campus Kitchens nationwide, students lead efforts to combat food waste and hunger by collecting surplus food from on-campus dining halls, community gardens, restaurants, and grocery stores and transforming it into healthy meals. In the last academic year, Campus Kitchens across the country rescued more than 823,549 pounds of food and served 293,963 meals to 12,006 clients.

Since 2001, Sodexo and Sodexo Foundation have supported The Campus Kitchens Project in its mission to share high school and college on-campus kitchen space, recover surplus food from cafeterias and engage student volunteers to prepare and deliver millions of meals to community members.

About The Campus Kitchens Project

Founded in 2001, The Campus Kitchens Project is a national organization that empowers student volunteers to fight hunger in their community. On 42 university and high school campuses across the country, students transform unused food from dining halls, grocery stores, restaurants, and farmers' markets into meals that are delivered to local agencies serving those in need. By taking the initiative to

run a community kitchen, students develop entrepreneurial and leadership skills, along with a commitment to serve their community, that they will carry with them into future careers. Each Campus Kitchen goes beyond meals by using food as a tool to promote poverty solutions, implement garden initiatives, participate in nutrition education, and convene food policy events. To learn more about our work or bring The Campus Kitchens Project to your school, visit www.campuskitchens.org.

Sodexo in North America

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