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## **Buffalo to Host NACUFS Northeast Regional Conference**

*University at Buffalo welcomes over 100 universities; Jim Kelly - keynote speaker*

BUFFALO, N.Y. – Western New York will welcome culinary professionals from across the Northeast and Canada when Campus Dining and Shops (CDS) and the University at Buffalo (UB) host the National Association of College and University Food Services' (NACUFS) 2016 Northeast Regional Conference. The conference, which runs March 16-19, will showcase UB's award-winning culinary services, renovated dining centers, unique campus eateries and various restaurants in the Buffalo area. With over 400 attendees, it is projected the economic impact of the conference could generate upwards of \$500,000 for the area.

“Our conference theme is You Be the Leader and we are excited to welcome our colleagues from across the Northeast and Canada to Buffalo,” said Jeff Brady, executive director for CDS. “We are proud of the dining program we have built here at UB and this is a great opportunity to share how our students dine, live and learn while exploring all of our roles in becoming high-functioning leaders.”

The conference will feature three speakers, highlighted by the keynote given by Buffalo Bills-NFL Hall of Fame Quarterback Jim Kelly conducted in interview format with John Murphy, the radio voice of the Bills. The event will also feature interest sessions on topics such as nutrition and culinary trends, networking opportunities, an American Culinary Federation sanctioned Culinary Challenge taking place at Rich's and the Industry Showcase featuring over 120 vendors at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center. Ten visiting chefs will compete in the Culinary Challenge and are required to incorporate the featured ingredients of red rice, edamame, and black kale into their entrée. The winning chef of the regional competition earns a spot to compete at the 2016 National Culinary Challenge July 14, 2016 in Anaheim, California.

“What better city to host a conference about food and food service than our own Buffalo?” said CDS Conference Co-Chair Kristen Przybyla. “Our conference goal is to promote high-quality food service by providing members with exceptional educational programming and numerous professional networking opportunities.”

The Buffalo Marriott Niagara in Amherst will serve as the conference headquarters hotel. This venue provides convenient access to the University at Buffalo for tours and the final dinner at Crossroads Culinary Center. It is also just minutes away from the splendor of Niagara Falls, Buffalo Niagara International Airport and the majestic waterfront in downtown Buffalo.

Additional information, including the conference promotional video can be found at

<http://www.nacufs.org/regions-northeast/ne-regional-conference/>

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UB's Campus Dining & Shops' (CDS) primary purpose is to offer a variety of high quality, high value, and innovative dining options designed to fit the varied lifestyles and nutritional needs of the university community. Serving foods from local growers, striving to achieve sustainability, and expanding the availability of dining choices are ways that we enrich the dining experience. We challenge our experienced and knowledgeable employees daily to provide exemplary customer service. CDS is a multi-unit company employing over 1,300 people. In addition to providing the university's dining services, CDS also serves the UB community through management of the UB Card Office, Three Pillars Catering, Retail and Convenience Stores, and Vending. In our day-to-day operations we rely on inherent core values: quality items, value prices, environmentally friendly settings, ethical treatment of all, and conducting all phases of our business with integrity.