

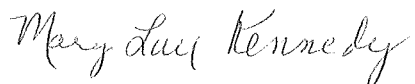
BOWDOIN COLLEGE

February 7, 2013

To Whom It May Concern,

As the director of Bowdoin Dining Service, I have made it a mission for our program to lead colleges and universities in their commitment to sustainability and support of the local food movement in our dining facilities. Bowdoin Dining Service has put increasing efforts into maximizing our local and organic purchasing and partnering with local farmers. One of our latest innovations is our "Feed a Farmer on a Friday in February" program that we started in 2009. In this program, local farmers, dining service staff, our organic garden manager and interested students, faculty and staff meet to enjoy both Bowdoin's nationally acclaimed food and a vigorous discussion about local food. This program showcases our intimate relationship with and commitment to local agriculture. Bowdoin's own Organic Garden has been integral in organizing and supporting this program, which is a great opportunity to expose more students to the complicated nature of sourcing food purchases in Maine. We specifically chose to host these meals in the winter to highlight the importance of seasonality and how the "off season" is actually a time for networking, planning and strengthening the connections in the overall local foods ecosystem.

This program is innovative because it goes beyond reaching into the local farming community for food, but brings that farming community into the inner workings of Bowdoin life. By connecting local farmers with students, faculty and staff, we have made food an open topic of discussion and a frequent topic of interest to visitors. At Bowdoin Dining, we are proud of all we do to encourage students to eat healthy, responsibly-grown and sustainable foods. This program is something that could be replicated at other institutions with close ties to their local food communities. It only takes a little effort to make a big difference when so many people are already invested in the future of food.



Mary Lou Kennedy
Director of Dining Services

DINING SERVICE