

Drover's Trail Natural Farms

May 4th, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

We at Drover's Trail Natural Farms have had the privilege of sponsoring the Joliet Junior College Farm to Fork dinner for the past three years. The dinner has had astounding attendance and great success! It gives us great satisfaction to know that the proceeds of this event go towards student scholarships while supporting our local community.

JJC is working tirelessly to support local agricultural businesses/farmers via the culinary arts department and the horticulture department. It is a high priority for the college to have their students gain hands on applications of local sustainability practices that are taught in the classroom.

We have observed first hand as vendors at the JJC Farmers Market of their commitment to the local community. Also, the experience the students are receiving while working the market, being introduced to local growers, and having a culinary arts tent to participate themselves, is invaluable.

Drover's Trail has hosted chefs on our farm and has supported their college restaurant for the past few years. At the present time, we are working with JJC to also host interns interested in the food industry to work on our farm. It is our desire to not only teach college level students how to grow food on a sustainable farm, but also to assist them in a hands on working/learning environment.

As a local business owner, we are proud to know that we are supporting students as they pursue a career in the food service industry. We are so excited that Joliet Junior College Culinary Arts is committed to local farming and locally sourced products, and that the Chefs are teaching the concepts of sustainable restaurant procurement to their students. We have never been approached by another community college who supports a similar program and are not aware of any that do. Students being encouraged to have this sort of positive relationship with local farmers could surely have a dramatic impact on local farming, local businesses, the extended community, and ultimately on restaurants in America. This is truly an innovative process being implemented by a truly innovative culinary program and we are excited to partner with the program and these future culinarians. Serving our local community is of great importance to Drover's Trail. It is an honor to sponsor our local community college in every way we can.

Sincerely,

David & Koren Finnestad

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