



OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY

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Sodexo Partners with Oakwood University to Offer Newly Renovated Cafeteria Featuring Vegetarian Cuisine

Huntsville, Ala. — Several major construction and renovation projects are drawing to a close on the campus of Oakwood University as the new academic year begins. One such project, underwritten by food and facilities management world leader Sodexo, is the newly renovated cafeteria featuring a full vegetarian menu. The cafeteria re-opens on Monday, August 17, with an official ribbon-cutting celebration starting at 11:00 a.m. on Oakwood's campus, 7000 Adventist Boulevard, NW.

Sodexo, a world leader in food and facilities management, is the company which manages all of Oakwood University's food services, including the Cafeteria and the Market/Snack Bar. Zeb Hinton, the General Manager for Sodexo Operations at Oakwood University, is responsible for many of the improvements that have resulted in the cafeteria.

Sodexo is proud to be leading the charge towards change in such areas as diversity, inclusion, and wellness. Oakwood University and Sodexo are partners in providing a comfortable and inviting atmosphere, created specifically for the campus environment, with a new seating capacity of 350 people. In addition to meeting Oakwood's physical needs with delicious meals, Sodexo's generous financial support adds to the success of the programs offered at Oakwood University.

Walking into the Blake Center Dining Hall now, you will notice the difference. Superior customer service and a larger, more state-of-the-art dining facility played integral roles in the consideration of the redesign. Diners will also recognize a greater variety of foods from which to choose. One might also sense the manager's pride in the recent attainment of a health inspection score of 98 from the Madison County Health Department. With new menu items, improved favorites, and several other changes, the Blake Center Dining Hall, more commonly known as the Oakwood University Cafeteria, is poised to reclaim its position as the flagship dining option on campus.

Sodexo's successful partnership with Oakwood University is due, in part, to Hinton's approach of addressing all issues immediately. "If we have any problems, we try to take care of [them] right then and right there," says Hinton. "Taking time to listen to student concerns is crucial," he continued, "in order to make students satisfied."

Additional recent improvements include: the hiring of Rob Banks, the only African-American executive chef in North Alabama, specializing in ice sculptures; and the establishment of a continental breakfast for students who choose to eat breakfast later in the morning. *The Huntsville Times* also recently listed the Oakwood University Cafeteria as one of the premier eating establishments in Huntsville for vegetarian cuisine, and is open to the public. Hinton says, "The best is yet to come," and along with his staff, welcomes you to the newly-renovated dining facility.