

The Locavore Leader Award

Presented to: Solange Morrisette, General Manager, Sodexo School Services, Pawtucket, Newport and Jamestown, RI



Solange started her F2S purchases with small apples from a handshake apple cooperative consisting of [Barden Orchards](#), [Hill Orchards](#) and [Steere Farm Orchards](#) in 2007. She followed apples up with small potatoes from Ferolbink Farms, which became overwhelmingly popular and quickly replaced French Fries on the Newport, Pawtucket and Jamestown school lunch menus.

Butternut squash was the next experiment; Solange was convinced by Kids First to be the first to serve the vegetable in her school lunch program. Kids First staff rallied to help peel, cut and prep the Butternut along with Sodexo staff, enlisting the help of DEM Chief Ken Ayars. Solange, ever mindful of food safety, and unfamiliar with Ken, found this strange man in her kitchen without a hairnet and threw him out. They still laugh about that today, and Solange still wrangles Ken into her kitchen when she can.

Most recently, Solange celebrated the 2009 harvest by presenting the first All Local Lunch in Jamestown. All the food served was sourced from within 15 miles of the school district. Solange is currently working on becoming a “Sustainability Expert” for Sodexo, focusing on further developing local food connections. We look forward to watching her progress with school gardens and incorporating the produce grown into the school lunch program.

For her enthusiasm for purchasing and serving the freshest and most delicious Rhode Island Grown produce, we are proud to present Solange Morrisette with the “Locavore Leader” award.