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DelVal uses its harvest in the dining hall

By Freda R. Savana, staff writer Nov 24, 2016 0



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Contributed
Kerry Zwack, a senior at Delaware Valley University, harvests food in the campus greenhouse.



Every week, Delaware Valley University's farm manager Scott Smith delivers baskets of fresh food grown in the school's Doylestown Township campus to the dining hall.

In a partnership with DelVal's dining services provider, Parkhurst Dining, the food is now being incorporated into the university's menus.

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"I think it's great that we serve food grown on campus," said Kerry Zwack, a senior horticulture student at the university. "I get to see the food start from seed, go to harvest and bring it to the dining hall where I get to eat it."

So far, chef Gerald Hunter, who creates the weekly menus based on what he receives from the farms, has used hydroponic lettuces, herbs, tomatoes and peppers year-round. Eggplants, cucumbers and a variety of greens and the first year's crop of romaine lettuce have also gone into the mix, adding to the salad bar and vegan dishes.

"To date," said Parkhurst Dining's general manager Joe Fryday, "we have used 400 pounds of peaches from DelVal's orchard and 400 pounds of corn from the fields."

While Parkhurst works with more than 250 regional farms, DelVal's is the only one on-site, added Fryday.

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