



Adding Value

Global Chef Program Offers More Than Just Food

Sodexo Education offered its innovative *Global Chef Program* for a fifth straight year in 2007, giving colleges all over the United States the chance to experience the food and culture of a different area of the world.

Chef **Joaquin Suarez** — a national culinary trainer and new offer development manager for Sodexo in South America — was selected as the executive chef for this year's global program. A native of Colombia, he also participated in the program in 2004 and 2006.

"I can bring ideas from my country and culture and share them through Sodexo," Suarez said. "Having an experience with real chefs from all over the country, and real students all over the country is great. We're sharing knowledge."

The first of Suarez's two stops as part of the 2007 program placed him at **Keene State University** in Keene, NH, a college of 4,900 students. It was the second time Keene State has welcomed a chef as part of the program, and makes for a special and educational week for the campus community, says Sodexo General Manager of Campus Services **Paul Paltrineri**.

"It's not just food. It's bringing someone here from another part of the world," Paltrineri said. "We're leveraging our international presence to a college campus in southwest New Hampshire."

Suarez proved that with his involvement at Keene State in October. Aside from preparing foods for the students and staff and talking shop with the kitchen crew, he also sought out Colombian dancers to perform on campus, and even gave lectures on Colombian culture in two different classes.

The program has made an impact at Keene State, says **Paul Striffolino**, assistant vice president of student affairs at the college.

"It brings a new level of excitement to everyone on campus for a few days. It makes the semester more of an interesting tapestry," Striffolino said. "This is a real bonus from Sodexo. It's something over and above, and it's something I look for in a business partner."

Contact: Warren Jaferian, vice president, Education Market, 413 499 8434, warren.jaferian@sodexo.com

