



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **University Dining Services Takes a Bite Out of Waste**

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY –It is Tuesday and you go to your favorite residence hall eatery only to find there are no trays! What do you do? Stay calm and enjoy the peace of mind that you are helping the environment, just by eliminating one element of your dining routine.

In an effort to provide environmental, economic and social benefits many university campuses across the nation have eliminated trays in their dining halls. Oklahoma State is following their lead by introducing Trayless Tuesdays at three of its dining units – Scott-Parker-Wentz, Blair Dining and the Adams Market.

“The purpose is to create a more sustainable dining program,” Terry Baker, OSU University Dining Services Food Service Director, said. Baker said many universities have been successful with the tray removal process and that University Dining Services “will be able to measure the difference in waste plus the savings on the environment.”

A recent study suggests trayless dining decreases waste, conserves natural resources and reduces the introduction of polluting detergents. The idea of trayless dining not only helps environmentally and economically, but also socially. Studies show students who did not have a tray to pile food on actually consumed less and wasted less food. Director of food services, Kurt Ellison, at St. Paul’s School in Concord, N.H. said, “we saved 685 gallons of milk during the first 30 weeks of going trayless.”

#### **Considering Tray Removal**

Removing trays conserves energy by eliminating the need to heat water for tray washing and lessens the ecological footprint. It also supports environmental awareness and encourages students to waste less. The economic gain is significant when trays are removed because of the

cost of water and energy and the food-waste removal costs. It also reinforces a healthy lifestyle, where overeating is not as tempting. Food waste is reduced by 5 ounces per person which equates to 46 pounds per person each year. When 92,000 students were surveyed nationwide about their support toward tray removal, 79 percent said, “yes they would accept the removal of trays to reduce waste on campus.”

For more information about Trayless Tuesdays contact University Dining Services at 405-744-4424.

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