

Cafeteria to Classroom Connection Panel



Moderator: Shannon Douglass
President, CA Farm Bureau

Shannon was elected president of the California Farm Bureau in 2023 after serving three terms as first vice president. Douglass owns and operates Douglass Ranch in Orland, raising beef cattle, walnuts, sunflowers, pumpkins, corn, and forage crops, and co-founded CalAgJobs to connect people with careers in agriculture. She is a graduate of the California Agricultural Leadership Program and has held numerous leadership roles within Farm Bureau at the county, state, and national levels. Douglass holds both bachelor's and master's degrees in agriculture from CSU Chico.



Michelle Drake
Director of Food and Nutrition Services, Elk Grove USD

Michelle has been with the district for 24 years and in her current role as director since 2010. She worked in the corporate restaurant environment for 9 years prior to joining the school district. Her goal is to provide fresh, quality food while still meeting the demands of her customers, the students. Her program is seen as an innovator in the field for strong nutrition education, farm to school and the overall meal programs.



Steve Hazelton
Chef, Leo A. Palmiter Jr./Sr. High School

Steve has worked in hospitality and foodservice for 48 years, with experience in restaurants, hotels, stadiums, catering, as a private chef, at Stanford University, and as a Culinary Arts and Foodservice teacher. His passion for food began on his grandparents' farm in Western Pennsylvania, where his grandmother tended an abundant edible garden. Now in his 8th year at Leo A. Palmiter Jr. & Senior High School, Steve engages students through cooking, nutrition discussions, garden-to-table experiences, and food production and farm tours. He is dedicated to helping students explore new foods, understand where they come from, and make healthy food choices.



Lauren Krohn, MS, RDN
Founder, Sprout & Savor Nutrition

Lauren is a School Nutrition Registered Dietitian. She founded Sprout & Savor Nutrition, a consulting business dedicated to advancing farm-to-school initiatives, scratch cooking, and sustainable procurement in school meal programs. With over a decade of experience in school nutrition operations, local food systems, and USDA compliance, Lauren empowers both school districts and small food producers to create healthier, more resilient food systems for students and communities. Outside of her work, she loves being outdoors hiking, cooking, gardening, and enjoying live music!



Kat Taylor
Co-Founder, TomKat Ranch Educational Foundation

Kat is dedicated to cultivating a fairer and more sustainable food system. As a co-sponsor of California's Schools Meals for All (SFMA) initiative, Kat united over 200 partner organizations to bridge a critical hunger gap for California families. She continues to champion policies and legislation that support California schools in serving freshly-prepared, California-grown meals to advance the health and wellness of all children.