

## Short Takes

### New Campus 'Tower Gardens' Feed Universities' Dining Halls

*Dining Insights*, Winter 2018

They're only four feet tall, but "tower gardens" are providing fresh produce to dining halls at the Univ. of Southern California, UCLA and recently, at the Univ. of Michigan, the NACUFS E-Newsletter reports. They use no soil, little water and can be harvested in two to three weeks.

"It's a great way to connect people to where their food comes from," says Connor Kippe, a U-Michigan student Campus Farm manager.

◆ **"I'd love for companies** to encourage every single employee to take a real lunch break. Ask managers to model this for their teams – getting away from their desks and eating at a real table . . . perhaps having an actual conversation not even about work."

- Dan Zigmond, Facebook Director of Analytics, quoted in *Workforce* magazine

◆ **"We can't act** fast enough if every idea has to come from me or management. The ideas can come from anywhere, and then people build on those ideas, and we operate cross-functionally, bottoms-up and organic."

- Paul Brown, president, Arby's Restaurant, quoted in *Restaurant Business*

◆ **"Almost all consumers** are looking for, at least to some level, foods that are fresh, real and less-processed. That's the holy grail for most consumers right now."

- Laurie Demeritt, CEO, Hartman Group, quoted in the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*

◆ **Nearly 25%** of US consumers in a survey said that they would never visit a restaurant again that had a foodborne illness incident.

-*Food Quality & Safety* on-line newsletter

◆ **The cuisines** of East Asia and Latin America are converging . . . illustrating just how willing trend-forward consumers are to move out of their comfort zones.

- *Nation's Restaurant News*

◆ **On Mondays**, healthful food sales increase 18% and by Friday, barbeque sales go up 33%, according to research by Fooda, a Chicago-based delivery and catering firm.

- *Nation's Restaurant News*

◆ **"The steady growth** of the plant-based foods industry shows that consumers continue to shift away from animal products towards plant-based options," said Michele Simon, executive director of the Plant Based Foods Association. Sales of these products exceeded \$5 billion in 2016.

- Plant Based Food Assn. press release

◆ **Once focused** almost exclusively on weight-loss products, today's snack food market is including products that optimize consumer nutritional needs, market research firm Euromonitor International reports.

- *Snack Foods & Wholesale Bakery* magazine

◆ **Sixty-two pct.** of American office workers eat lunch at their desk.

- *JLL Weekly Foodcast*

◆ **Forty-six pct.** of 1,000 restaurant diners surveyed by consulting firm Pentalect say they have "very little" or "virtually no" discretionary income.

- *Nation's Restaurant News*

◆ **Snacking** and drinking coffee to maintain alertness is more common among 20s and 30s year-olds.

- Hartman Group, quoted in *Supermarket News*

**Coffee is** the most tweeted-about food in America, followed by beer and pizza, a study by the *Journal of Medical Internet Research Public Health and Surveillance* found.

- *Time* magazine