



University of Houston
Division of Administration and Finance
University Services

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fresh, regional produce makes it easy to eat your fruits and veggies on campus

As fresh as the produce is on campus it's easy to want to eat your recommended daily allowance of fruits and vegetables on campus. The reason University of Houston produce is so fresh? Since the university uses a local supplier, it doesn't have to travel very far.

University Dining Services obtains all its produce from local supplier, Houston Avocado Company, which is located in the part of town known for its fresh produce – "Produce Row." When you peel back and look at the produce supply chain, you can see that Houston Avocado sources its produce from a variety of places and tries to buy in Texas when seasonally possible.

"All of the herbs used in our recipes are grown locally, from an herb farm in Missouri City," said Geoffrey Herbert, director of operations in university dining services. "Using a local supplier for our produce gives us the flexibility to source regional produce whenever possible."

Examples of regional produce sourced in season and when available from Texas include: onions, cantaloupe, watermelon grapefruit and oranges, said Herbert.

Examples of the produce supply chain from outside the region include tomatoes. Houston Avocado sources tomatoes on a seasonal basis from Plant City, FL, which is known throughout the country as the "winter Strawberry Capital of the World." During other parts of the year Houston Avocado supplies the campus with tomatoes from Mappsville, VA.

