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A Campus Grown Partnership Rooted in Sustainability

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When University Catering approached UC Davis Grounds and Landscape Services last November with the idea of collecting the campus grown clippings for use in their floral arrangements they thought the idea had grit. “I remember thinking wow, what a great idea.” remembers Katie Hetrick, Communications Director for Grounds and Landscape Services at UC Davis. “We are already in the business of pruning; why not earn extra revenue while we’re at it? Now, all we need to do is think like florists!”

This initiative began when University Catering, managed by Sodexo, sought ways to improve the sustainability of the floral arrangements used to decorate catered events on campus. Collaborating on an extension of the Grounds and Landscape Service’s program, ‘[UC Davis Campus Grown](#)’, which transforms unused assets into retail products, made for a perfect partnership. “It’s much better than a win-win,” says Robin Clement, Marketing and Project Specialist for University Catering and Dining Services. “It’s good for the campus, good for the Grounds division, good for the plants, good for the environment, good for our customers and good for University Catering.” The initiative has been identified as a best practice by the Sodexo Office of Sustainability & Corporate Social Responsibility. “Our hope is that this serves as a model and spreads to many more campuses.” said Gina Rios, Retail General Manager for UC Davis Dining Services.

Not only has this sustainability project been a resounding success with widespread support throughout the campus community it also makes fiscal sense. University Catering was spending anywhere from \$50-\$75 each for traditional cut flower arrangements from outside vendors. That money is now kept on campus and used to pay Grounds for the labor spent collecting and delivering the trimmings to University Catering’s in-house floral design talent. “Our decorative greenery not only changes with the seasons now, there’s a campus story behind it. We’re very proud of that.” said Clement.

UC Davis Campus Grown arrangements have evolved into an integral part of University Catering’s commitment to sustainability. Thanks to the hard work of those involved with the project, University Catering customers can now enjoy floral inspired centerpieces that showcase the natural beauty this campus has to offer!

Resources:

[UC Davis Campus Grown Arrangements Video Story](#)

[UC Davis Campus Grown](#)

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