



Meet Nancy Keller, Director, University Culinary Services

Nancy Keller arrives at Sonoma State University in May 2017 with over 20 years of Higher Education experience in Culinary Services. She was the Director of Dining at Iowa State University (ISU) for nearly ten years and Director of Dining Services at Cal Poly Pomona for eight. As Director, Keller will oversee all aspects of Culinary Services, a department that employs nearly 500 students and over 50 full time professional staff. She has a strong history in collaborating with faculty, staff and students, which she will carry into her work here at Sonoma.



Keller's work with the campus community has been a focus throughout her career. Highlights include working with students on sustainability initiatives to use fryer grease to power city buses and reduce food waste through education programs. As part of a food waste reduction initiative, she and her team supported a local food bank and youth shelter with retail and catering leftovers. As a result of this program, the ISU Dining team was honored with the Iowa Restaurant Association's Good Neighbor Award. She has worked with students to integrate their favorite recipes into an annual food fair and has supported various campus clubs work to introduce their culture by featuring their foods at special dinners for campus residents. In addition, she launched ISU Dining's Farm to ISU program which educated the campus community on local, sustainable and organic foods.

Keller began her food service career as a student at Santa Clara University. From there, she worked her way through the food service ranks with Saga Corporation, Service America, and Canteen corporations. She worked as a District Manager for ARAMARK in the Pacific Northwest and, since 2015, has worked for Sodexo as a General Manager of the Napa Valley Unified School District, food operations unit. Keller also spent time as a business consultant where she trained staff in customer service and building master plans.

Keller and her husband, Steve, enjoy traveling, golfing and hiking with their dog, Gidget. She looks forward to reaching out to the students, faculty and staff of Sonoma State to help guide the direction of the Culinary Services team and having the opportunity to share the skills she has refined throughout her career.

