

January 25, 2008

## **Celebrity Chef Marvin Woods and Sodexo School Services Partner to Enhance School Meals and Strengthen Nutrition Education**

ATLANTA - Chef Marvin Woods, Emmy® Award-nominated television host and celebrated cookbook author, has joined with Sodexo School Services to enhance the Atlanta Public Schools (APS) high school food service program with a special emphasis on educating students that healthy choices can taste great. Chef Woods designed a unique culinary curriculum called *Droppin' Knowledge™ with Chef Marvin Woods* that emphasizes training, education and innovation.

“Partnering our program with Sodexo allows us to ‘drop some knowledge’ on the APS food service team to re-energize them, improve their culinary skills and get them excited about honing their craft - the art of school food service,” said Chef Woods.

Throughout the school year, Chef Woods and Sodexo will continue to focus on enhancing the school meal experience for students. They will look at skills and techniques that intensify flavors as well as improve service delivery. There will also be an emphasis on the instruction of frontline employees, including enhanced kitchen skills, career development and discussion of health and wellness trends.

“We are excited to be partnering with such a well-known chef who shares our vision of healthy and delicious options for all students. Our mission is to go beyond traditional thinking about school meals – we want APS students to enjoy the food and enjoy the food service experience,” said Scott Loretan, senior vice president of Sodexo School Services.

Students will share in the progress through focus groups, tastings, roundtable discussions and engagement surveys. In addition, Sodexo chefs and registered dietitians will be reaching out to the local community for resources and ideas to engage students, their families, and APS staff in nutrition and wellness activities.

Sodexo proudly partners with Jackmont Hospitality, Inc., a full service hospitality company, to provide meal service to APS.

-more-

About Droppin' Knowledge™ with Chef Marvin Woods

*Droppin' Knowledge with Chef Marvin Woods* is a wellness program designed to help kids and their families live better – through food. Created by Chef Marvin Woods - Emmy® Award-nominated host of TurnerSouth's wildly popular *Home Plate* and author of heralded cookbooks, *Home Plate Cooking* (Rutledge Hill) and *The New Low Country* (William Morrow) - *Droppin' Knowledge with Chef Marvin Woods* espouses "The More We Know, the Better We'll Eat." The program aims to unify the entire community (parents, teachers, corporations, government leaders, food companies) in an entertaining and motivating way to make a positive difference in the overall health of children, including childhood obesity and teenage diabetes. The program began in select Atlanta Public Schools (APS) in November 2006 and expanded into all APS high schools in September 2007 through a partnership with Sodexo, Inc. For more information on *Droppin' Knowledge with Chef Marvin Woods*, go to [www.marvinwoods.net](http://www.marvinwoods.net) or call 404-606-0611.

About Sodexo, Inc.

Sodexo, Inc. ([www.sodexoUSA.com](http://www.sodexoUSA.com)) is a leading integrated food and facilities management services company in the U.S., Canada and Mexico, with \$7.3 billion (USD) in annual revenue and 125,000 employees. Sodexo serves more than ten million customers daily in corporations, health care, long term care and retirement centers, schools, college campuses, government and remote sites. Sodexo, Inc., headquartered in Gaithersburg, Md., is a member of Sodexo Group ([www.sodexo.com](http://www.sodexo.com)). Sodexo, Inc. funds the Sodexo Foundation ([www.helpstophunger.org](http://www.helpstophunger.org)), an independent charitable organization that, since its founding in 1999, has made more than \$9.2 million in grants to fight hunger in America.

**\*\*Photos available upon request\*\***

**Press Contact:**

**Kate Wester, Sodexo**

Tel : 619 929 1557 – Fax : 301 987 4438

E-mail: [kate.wester@sodexoUSA.com](mailto:kate.wester@sodexoUSA.com)

**Chadwick Boyd, Trailblazing Productions**

Tel : 404 606 0611

E-mail: [Chadwick@trailblazingproductions.com](mailto:Chadwick@trailblazingproductions.com)