# Aramark Collegiate Hospitality Unveils The Gathering Place™ — A Student-Inspired Dining Space to Drive Campus Community

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PHILADELPHIA--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Jan. 20, 2026-- Aramark Collegiate Hospitality today announced the launch of **The Gathering Place ™**, an innovative residential dining concept designed with direct input from students to transform campus dining into a hub of community and school pride.

This press release features multimedia. View the full release here: https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20260120959571/en/

Aramark Collegiate Hospitality announced the launch of The Gathering Place, an innovative residential dining concept designed with direct input from students to transform campus dining into a hub of community and school pride.

"The Gathering Place is more than a dining hall—it's a student-driven vision brought to life," said Karen Parker, Chief Marketing Officer for Aramark Collegiate Hospitality. "By listening to students, we've created an experience that amplifies school spirit and fosters belonging."

Developed through insights from Aramark's **Council of Student Advisors (CSA)** and campus focus groups, The Gathering Place reflects Gen Z's call for authentic connection and mental wellness. The concept blends dining with social engagement, creating spaces where students can recharge, celebrate traditions, and build lasting memories.

**What Makes It Special?**

- **Student-Led Design:** Feedback from CSA shaped everything from flexible seating to interactive chef tables.
- **Community-Centric Features:** Gaming lounges, hydration stations, and campus-themed décor make dining a social experience.
- **Sustainability & Wellness:** Built on four pillars—Energy, Action, People, and Planet—The Gathering Place prioritizes belonging and environmental responsibility.

Early adopters like **Cleveland State University** are looking forward to immediate impact.

"The CSU Gathering Place will capture Cleveland pride and create a dining experience that feels like home," said **Vince Phipps**, Regional Vice President for Aramark Collegiate Hospitality. "Signature menu items like the Green Machine Burrito, the 'Vike It Up' Grilled Cheese, and Spinach Queso were developed specifically for the CSU community."

The modular design is customizable for every campus and includes:

- Branded welcome walls
- Chef's tables for interactive dining
- Pop-up carts for seasonal activations
- Study pods
- Community story displays

Aramark Collegiate Hospitality is rolling out The Gathering Place nationwide in 2026.

**About Aramark Collegiate Hospitality**

Aramark Collegiate Hospitality —where futures are better served—has been a trusted dining partner to higher education institutions for over 50 years. Serving more than 275 colleges and universities nationwide, Aramark delivers customized dining and hospitality programs that reflect the unique culture and needs of each campus. Rooted in a deep commitment to service for people, partners, the community, and the planet, Aramark goes beyond meals by curating tailored experiences, supporting success, and cultivating communities. Connect with Collegiate Hospitality on LinkedIn.

Aramark (NYSE: ARMK) proudly serves the world's leading educational institutions, Fortune 500 companies, world champion sports teams, prominent healthcare providers, iconic destinations and cultural attractions, and numerous municipalities in 16 countries around the world with food and facilities management. Because of our hospitality culture, our employees strive to do great things for each other, our partners, our communities, and the planet. Learn more at www.aramark.com and connect with us on LinkedIn, Facebook, X, and Instagram.

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