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MEDIA RELEASE

Fresno Unified Partners with Asian Business Institute & Resource Center to Work with Local Farmer to Develop New Sauce

What: Fresno Unified, resource center and local Hmong farmer develop Sweet Thai Chile Sauce

When: Friday, November 8, 2019
10:00 a.m.

Where: Duncan Polytechnical High School cafeteria
4330 E. Garland Ave. (93726)

Fresno Unified has partnered with the Asian Business Institute & Resource Center to work with local farmer Zia Xiong to incorporate farm to school items in school menus. The Food Services Department has completed the recipe design and student taste testing process for the new Sweet Thai Chile Sauce.

The Sweet Thai Chile Sauce, made with Thai chilis grown in Fresno County, will be used as a dipping sauce with vegan chik’n nuggets, whole grain vegetarian egg rolls, orange chicken bowls, and Asian chicken pho.

On Nov. 8 at Duncan Polytechnical High School, students will have an opportunity to enjoy the new Sweet Thai Chile Sauce with a whole grain vegetarian egg roll, orange chicken bowl, or the Asian chicken pho.

Xiong was born in 1951 in Laos. In 1965, Xiong served as a member of the Special Guerrilla Unit (SGU), which assisted United States troops in fighting communism. In 1989, Xiong and his family were permitted to immigrate to the United States, settling in Fresno. Today, Xiong grows specialty crops such as Thai chilis, green beans, Asian pumpkins (squash) and bitter melons on 40 acres near Sanger.
“The goal of the Food Services Department is to provide nutritious, appetizing meals to help students do their best in school each day, and implementing new menu options and working with local farmers helps us meet this goal,” said Food Services Director Jose Alvarado.

Superintendent Bob Nelson said: “We know that when are students are eating healthy foods, they are better prepared to learn. This new sauce gives them a better understanding of the products that are grown here locally and can enhance our menu options for schools.”

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