

The Food Trust

Ensuring That Everyone Has Access To Affordable, Nutritious Food



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 29, 2015

Twitter: [@thefoodtrust](#) [#fieldtotray](#)

On the Web: www.fieldtotray.org

Contact:

Carolyn Huckabay

chuckabay@thefoodtrust.org

p: 215-575-0444, ext. 8120

***Let's Move!* Executive Director Debra Eschmeyer to Deliver Keynote Speech at Field to Tray, the Inaugural Farm to School Conference for the Mid-Atlantic Region**

WHEN: November 5, 2015
8:55 a.m.

WHERE: The Universities at Shady Grove
9630 Gudelsky Drive, Rockville, MD 20850

WHAT: Debra “Deb” Eschmeyer, Executive Director of First Lady Michelle Obama’s *Let’s Move!* program, will give the keynote address on Thursday, November 5, 8:55 a.m., at ***Field to Tray: Strengthening Farm to School Purchasing in the Mid-Atlantic***. Field to Tray, the inaugural region-wide farm to school conference hosted by Philadelphia-based healthy food access nonprofit **The Food Trust** in partnership with the **United States Department of Agriculture**, brings together farmers, food service directors, suppliers and other farm to school stakeholders for a day of digging in to local food procurement strategies.

As Executive Director of *Let’s Move!*, Eschmeyer leads the First Lady’s work to help America raise a healthier generation of kids and ensure that all children have the opportunity for the long, healthy lives they deserve. A longtime farm to school innovator and farmer, Eschmeyer will focus her keynote address on how *Let’s Move!* supports child nutrition programs including farm to school, and how the future of the field will be strengthened by the collective effort of school food service professionals, farmers, government and other stakeholders.

Additional featured speakers include:

- **Pat Dombroski**, Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator, USDA Food and Nutrition Service (USDA FNS)
- **Joseph Bartenfelder**, Secretary, Maryland Department of Agriculture
- **Matt Benson**, Program Analyst, USDA Farm to School
- **Erin McGuire**, Policy Director, National Farm to School Network

This conference, supported by a USDA Farm to School Grant, will be a sharing, learning and networking opportunity for key farm to school players in the Mid-Atlantic who are working to connect communities with fresh, healthy food. As the Mid-Atlantic regional lead agency for the **National Farm to School Network**, The Food Trust supports farm to school efforts and coordinates advocacy and networking among states in the Mid-Atlantic region, and shares information, resources, needs and opportunities with the rest of the National Farm to School Network.

About Deb Eschmeyer

A dedicated and tireless champion for children’s health, Eschmeyer created public-private partnerships to collaborate with diverse stakeholders to combat the epidemic of childhood obesity and food insecurity. Eschmeyer

co-founded FoodCorps, a national AmeriCorps service program that places emerging leaders into schools in limited-resource communities for a year of public service. Throughout the year, FoodCorps service members teach hands-on lessons about food and nutrition; build and tend school gardens, teach cooking lessons; and help change what's on school lunch trays, giving kids healthy food. In her role as Vice President of External Affairs, Eschmeyer helped build FoodCorps into a 182 member corps serving in 16 states and DC that supports the National School Lunch Program's healthier guidelines ensuring kids eat the healthy school food on their trays, and lays the essential groundwork for children to build lasting relationships with healthy food.

Fortune and *Food & Wine* recently selected Eschmeyer as one of "The Most Innovative Women in Food and Drink" permanently changing the way we eat and how we think about food. Eschmeyer is a recipient of the James Beard Foundation Leadership Award and the Xavier University Magis Award in recognition of her exemplary school food reform efforts and commitment to public service. Prior to FoodCorps, she served as a W.K. Kellogg Food and Community Fellow and as Communications and Outreach Director of the National Farm to School Network where she created One Tray, a national campaign to improve federal child nutrition programs.

Growing up on a dairy farm in rural Ohio, Eschmeyer was ingrained at an early age with an appreciation for how nutrition policy meets the plow. In conjunction with her policy work, she started a fruit and vegetable farm in New Knoxville, Ohio, with her husband.

About The Food Trust

The Food Trust is a nationally recognized nonprofit dedicated to ensuring that everyone has access to affordable, nutritious food and information to make healthy decisions. The Food Trust is committed to fostering healthier communities and bringing healthy food retail to underserved areas. To learn more about The Food Trust, visit www.thefoodtrust.org.

