

Chicago High School for Agricultural Science / FFA Tour

Last week, several Supplier Network members took the opportunity to tour and hear from students attending the Chicago High School for Agriculture Science (CHSAS). CHSAS is a Chicago public school that teaches students about the many aspects of American agriculture, including ag economics, food science and animal care. This school prepares students for careers in food and related industries. Supported by Future Farmers of America (FFA), students take part in practical, hands-on learning as well as community projects. The students we met were articulate, passionate and personable. These future employees and leaders are eager to observe how what they are learning translates to the real world. Perhaps there are opportunities for some of these students to job shadow or intern with McDonald's suppliers. Stay tuned for more information on this.

Testimonials:

- *I came in not knowing that such a program actually existed in high school! Great to know they are starting early and getting a feel of what they can be in the future...*
- *The content was great, as was the interaction with the students and staff*
- *Was very impressed with the caliber of the program, students and leadership.*
- *It was great to listen to the kids talk and see how enthusiastic they are to show and share what they have! They are amazing future leaders!*
- *It was organized perfectly*
- *Outstanding hospitality, poise and tour from high schoolers, any of us would be proud to hire.*
- *It is very inspiring. It made me think of the future and why we need to help them shape it.*
- *This little known school trains great future talent for our industry - talk about winning the talent wars!*
- *Highly recommend that McD and other suppliers take this tour to understand how these students can be advocates for high quality food and sustainable sourcing.*
- *This was new learning for most of the group. It also provided an opportunity to share and talk about the tour with people we don't normally see during the course of the day. Energizing to see the impact these students had on various types of suppliers.*
- *Had no idea this high school (and 8,000) others existed. It is great to now know that there are high school that train future food scientists, ag economists, and other food industry disciplines.*