

NACUFS (2025)

Special Diet Program of the Year

University of Maryland- The Purple Zone

University of Maryland

Essay:

Dear Judging Committee,

Located at the University of Maryland's 251 North/Denton Dining Hall, the Purple Zone stands as a beacon of inclusivity, safety, and dedication to offering allergen-free meal options for the campus community. Designed with the health and well-being of all diners in mind, the Purple Zone is proudly free from the nine most common allergens: dairy, peanuts, tree nuts, eggs, sesame, soy, fish, shellfish, wheat, and gluten.

What makes the Purple Zone truly stand out is its unwavering dedication to food safety and hospitality. Our mission is centered around transparency, with clear and accessible allergen information available for all foods, empowering diners to make informed meal choices while minimizing any risk of allergic reactions. This level of care and accountability reflects our ongoing commitment to excellence and provides a dining experience that truly puts our guests' needs first. But we do not stop there.

Continuous improvement is core to our ethos. We actively seek and value feedback from our diners, using their insights to fine-tune our offerings and services, ensuring that the Purple Zone is always at the forefront of both safety and hospitality. To encourage this open communication, QR codes are provided on each table, offering guests an easy way to share their experiences and suggestions via our e-comment cards.

At the heart of the Purple Zone's success is our exceptional team. These dedicated individuals lead our commitment to safety and quality service. Their hard work, dedication, and hospitality foster a warm and welcoming environment that helps us build lasting trust with every guest. We ensure our staff are well- trained, equipping them with the knowledge and tools they need through programs like AllerTrain, which allows them to confidently maintain a safe and inclusive dining experience.

Our success would not be possible without the invaluable contributions of our staff – their commitment is instrumental in helping us achieve our mission. Our motto encapsulates this perfectly: "We don't just serve food, we serve the community!" The Purple Zone is more than just another dining station; it is a place where safety, hospitality, great food, and community thrive together.

Sincerely,

Christopher Moore
Director of Dining Services

Log in to nacufs.awardsplatform.com to see complete entry attachments.

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