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## **Chick-Fil-A, Qdoba, Caribou Coffee Coming to Lindenwood in Food Service Deal**

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Lindenwood University students will see big changes in food service this fall –highlighted by national brands Chick-fil-A, Qdoba, and Caribou Coffee and a seven-figure modernization of both dining halls.

Lindenwood's Board of Directors has approved a partnership with Pedestal Foods to overhaul the dining experience at Lindenwood. It includes significant upgrades to the Evans Commons and Spellmann Center dining halls, turning Evans into the all-you-care-to-eat site and offering national brands and other à la carte options in the Spellmann Center.

"Our partnership with Pedestal Foods is all about the students," said Lindenwood University President Michael D. Shonrock, Ph.D. "We asked the students specifically what they wanted, and we're delivering an experience that will be Like No Other."

Shonrock said students will see another big change this fall with declining balance and block meal plans for resident students and commuters, offering much greater flexibility and extended hours of operation.

"The best fuel for students is food," said Lindenwood Student Governmental President Samuel Rudloff. "That's why the student body is excited for the extraordinary changes coming to campus this fall. From Chick-fil-A and Qdoba to the flexible meal plans, it shows Lindenwood and Pedestal take great interest in our students' well-being."

Vice President for Student Development Ryan Guffey, Ph.D., said the changes are the institution's response to a student survey in the fall in which quality dining was rated just as important as campus safety and is an essential part of college life. Guffey said the students consistently sought more variety in their options and the national brands being added were "what students asked for over and over again."

Guffey said construction begins in April in the Spellmann Center dining hall, where students will see temporary walls and dining space cut in half due to construction. By fall, they will see Chick-fil-A and Qdoba there, as well as an enhanced Grill & Deli station. Construction will be complete this summer in the all-you-care-to-eat Evans dining hall.

"We are pleased to partner with the Lindenwood University team responding to students' preferences and creating custom solutions that make food service part of the overall vision for the campus culture," said Jennifer Dodd, chief operating officer for Pedestal Foods. "We'll be designing new and adventurous dining experiences and adding communal gathering points for students to relax, study, and socialize, as well."

Pedestal Foods is an on-site dining services company serving K-12, college, and seniors.

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