



## NEWS RELEASE

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# Wake County Receives National Award for Food Safety

With more than one million residents living in Wake County now and countless visitors coming here each year, the safety of restaurants, food trucks and other food service establishments in our community is vital for the health of all who eat and work at these locations.

Wake County's Food, Lodging and Institution Section understands that, and recently received the [2016 Samuel J. Crumbine Award for Excellence in Food Protection](#) for its commitment to inspecting these food service establishments.

"It is an honor to receive the prestigious Samuel J. Crumbine Award for our program's commitment to excellence in food safety," said Wake County Environmental Health and Safety Director Andre Pierce. "The goal of serving safe and wholesome food can only be achieved in collaboration with industry partners, policy makers and regulators. This award is a testament to those relationships that support and promote food safety every day for citizens and visitors to Wake County."

The Samuel J. Crumbine Award is a national honor given annually to local environmental health jurisdictions that demonstrate unsurpassed achievement in providing outstanding food protection services to their communities.

As of Jan. 1, there were 3,207 food service facilities to inspect in the county, including restaurants, food stands, nursing home kitchens and school lunchrooms. Wake County has 26 environmental health specialists who inspect these establishments with the goal of reducing the risk of foodborne illnesses. The county's Food Lodging Institution Section also participates in the [Voluntary FDA Retail Program Standards](#), which focus on quality improvement, and has contributed to the success of the program.

The Samuel J. Crumbine Award is supported by the Conference for Food Protection, in cooperation with the American Academy of Sanitarians, American

Public Health Association, Association of Food and Drug Officials, Foodservice Packaging Institute, International Association for Food Protection, National Association of County and City Health Officials, National Environmental Health Association and National Sanitation Foundation International.

Wake County received the Crumrine Award at the Annual Educational Conference of the National Environmental Health Association last week in San Antonio, Texas.

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