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Issued By: NutriCore NorthEast, Inc.

Mushroom Council Partners with NutriCore NorthEast, Approves \$26,000 Grant

YORK, PA. – March 21, 2005 – NutriCore NorthEast received notification on February 16th that The Mushroom Council approved a \$26,000 research grant to Penn State University (PSU) and welcomed the York based National Center of Excellence in Foods and Nutrition Research as a partner in their efforts to advance the health benefits of mushrooms and to support the mushroom industry in PA and the rest of North America.

Authorized under the Mushroom Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act of 1990, the Council administers a national research and consumer information program to maintain and expand markets for fresh mushrooms.

The council is composed of fresh market producers or importers, appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture, who produce or import an average of more than 500,000 pounds of mushrooms annually.

In the University Park Food Sciences laboratories, Professor Robert Beelman, Ph.D. will utilize the grant and matching funds from NutriCore NorthEast to evaluate anti-oxidants in cultivated mushrooms and their potential use in health supplements and functional foods.

"As Chairman of the Mushroom Council, I appreciate NutriCore NorthEast's support of funding this valuable research" stated James Angelucci, General Manager of Phillips Mushroom Farms in Kennett Square, PA.

NutriCore NorthEast is funded by a collaboration of 26 stakeholders in South Central PA that includes food manufacturers, public and private sector community leaders, the Ben Franklin Technology Partners and Congressional appropriation. The Pennsylvania NutriCore hub is affiliated with 5 other centers in California, Indiana, Kansas, South Carolina and Texas.

The initiative is providing the foods industries with the collaborative resources to perform health and nutrition R&D, providing industry with centralized resources to identify leading edge projects and researchers and providing industry with representation and collaboration with the FDA, the CDC, USDA, NIH, HHS and related federal agencies on issues of nutrition development.

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