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Get well-fed with flatbread

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First Sandella's in Midwest offers 'upscale, fast, casual' fare

Sandella's Flatbread Café is the new kid off campus.

Located just across from North Dakota State University at 1414 12th Ave. N., the franchise restaurant serves up paninis, grilled flatbread, quesadillas, wraps, rice bowls, salads and soups.



Curtis Biller is co-owner of the new Sandella's Flatbread Café across from the North Dakota State University campus at 1414 12th Ave. N. in Fargo.
David Samson / The Forum

"We are an upscale, fast, casual restaurant," co-owner Nick Hacker said.

Sandella's, founded in 1994 in West Redding, Conn., has more than 125 restaurants with more than 350 under development, according to its Web site.

"This is the first one in the Midwest," Hacker said. "The next closest is Provo, Utah."

Many are located in food courts on college campuses, he said.

"That was really the big reason I wanted to be near campus, because the concept was proven on campuses," Hacker said.

Part of his development agreement is to open five to seven stores in North Dakota and Minnesota, he said.

Zach Perry, an NDSU senior finance major from St. Cloud, Minn., made his first visit to the new restaurant Wednesday.

"I got the barbecue quesadilla. I've never had barbecue sauce on a quesadilla before," Perry said. "It's very good."

Hacker hung a "Now Hiring" banner on the restaurant and attracted 85 applicants for 15 positions, he said, possibly a reflection on the current economy.

Sandella's opened March 15. He originally set an April 1 grand opening, which was rescheduled for April 15 because of the Red River flood.

Hacker said he's given away \$3,000 worth of food to flood volunteers.

Hacker is a 2005 University of North Dakota finance graduate and former state legislator.

"I love this location," he said. "I think I connect well with students, so this feels right at home."

Sandella's employs 15 full- and part-time workers. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week.

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