

Steve Smith, MS, CEC, CCA, is a distinguished Corporate Chef based in Knoxville, Tennessee, renowned for his transformative impact on culinary operations within the healthcare and hospitality sectors. With over three decades of experience, Steve currently serves as the Corporate Chef and Coordinator of Quality Food Service at National Healthcare Corporation, a position he has held since 2020. His career is marked by a proven ability to innovate, lead, and elevate dining experiences, seamlessly blending culinary artistry with strategic operational management.

Steve's tenure as Food and Beverage Director and Executive Chef at NHC Place Farragut from 1998 to 2020 showcased his leadership prowess, overseeing a team of 70, including Certified Sous Chefs, dietitians, and dining staff. He revolutionized dining services by transitioning from traditional healthcare tray models to restaurant-style and upscale-casual dining, significantly boosting customer satisfaction and revenue while maintaining strict cost controls. Under his guidance, dining operations expanded to include seven dining areas and six kitchens, and he spearheaded an ACF-accredited culinary apprenticeship that graduated five Certified Sous Chefs. His contributions earned him multiple accolades, including repeated Dietary and Dining Services of the Year awards and the title of Knoxville's Favorite Chef.

A visionary in menu development and process optimization, Steve holds a Master of Science in Hotel and Restaurant Management from Auburn University, a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Troy University, and an Associate of Occupational Sciences in Culinary Arts from Scottsdale Culinary Institute. His certifications include ACF Certified Executive Chef, Certified Culinary Administrator, and ServSafe Instructor/Proctor, underscoring his expertise in food safety and culinary education. Steve's commitment to excellence continues to drive innovation, customer satisfaction, and operational success in every culinary endeavor he undertakes.