



American Culinary Federation
The Standard of Excellence for Chefs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Alan Sterling

904-484-0247

asterling@acfchefs.net

American Culinary Federation Announces 2022 National Award Winners

National award winners were celebrated following two days of competitions during the ACF National Convention in Las Vegas in July

JACKSONVILLE, FLA. – August 5, 2022 — The best chefs in the nation were awarded the highest honors by the American Culinary Federation (ACF) at the 2022 ACF National Convention in Las Vegas on Thursday, July 28.

The honor of an ACF award proves skill, knowledge and professionalism in the culinary industry and furthers recognition for an individual as a qualified chef. ACF President Kimberly Brock Brown, CEPC, CCA, AAC, presented these awards following two days of competitions during the President's Gala. High resolution photographs of winners are available upon request.

The award recipients include:

- **Chef of the Year** - Danielle Hughes, U.S. Coast Guard
- **Pastry Chef of the Year** - Troy Matthew Shaw, U.S. Coast Guard
- **Chef Educator of the Year** - Jack Birren, CEC, Waukesha County Technical College
- **Dr. L.J. Minor Chef Professionalism Award** – Michael R. Thrash, CEC, CCA, CCE, AAC
- **Student Chef of the Year** - Lindsay Peck
- **Student Pastry Chef of the Year** - Sarrenity Dickson
- **Student Team of the Year** - Culinary Institute of New York at Monroe College
- **L. Edwin Brown Leadership Award** - Ryan Manning, MX Taco
- **Lifetime Contribution Award** – Willie Lewis

- **National Winner of Hermann G. Rusch Chef's Achievement Award and Southeast Regional Winner** – Joseph Alfano, CEC, AAC
- **Northeast Regional Winner** – Richard A. Panzera, CEC, CCE, AAC
- **Western Regional Winner** – Brian W. Dragos, CEC, CCE, AAC

- **National Chapter of the Year and Regional Chapter of the Year Northeast** – ACF Pittsburgh Chapter
- **Regional Chapter of the Year Central** – ACF Chefs of Northwest Indiana

6816 Southpoint Parkway, Ste 400 | Jacksonville, FL 32216

Phone: (904) 824-4468 | Fax: (904) 940-0741 | acf@acfchefs.org | www.acfchefs.org



American Culinary Federation
The Standard of Excellence for Chefs

- **Regional Chapter of the Year Southeast** – ACF Central Florida Chapter
- **Regional Chapter of the Year Western** – ACF Pikes Peak Chapter
- **Industry Partner of the Year** – Ecolab

The recipient of the **Dr. L.J. Minor Chef Professionalism Award** was Chef Michael Thrash, CEC, CCE, CCA, AAC.

The **Humanitarian Award** was presented to Chef Jeff Henderson.

The following members received Presidential Medallions, the highest honor from the president:

- Eloise Fernandez, CEC, CCE, AAC
- Darrin Aoyama, CEPC, AAC
- Ronna Keck, HAAC
- Amanda Miller, CSC, CPC
- Polly Barrington
- Nicholas Barrington, CEC
- Robert Waskoviak, CEC
- Susanne Ebacher-Grier
- John Selick, CEC, CCA, AAC
- Keith Coughenour, CEC, AAC
- Richard Hoffman, CEC, CCA, AAC
- Jeffrey Schlissel
- Lisa Tomecek, CEPC
- Chris Bugher, CEC
- Lawrence Alexander, CCC
- Lance Cook, CEC, CCA
- John Casto, CEC
- Kirk Kief, CEC, CCA, CPC
- Joseph Kraft, CEC, CCA, AAC
- Jacqui Pressinger, CPC
- Brandon LaVieille, CEC
- Leslie Eckert, CEPC, CCE, AAC

During the convention, President Brock Brown also presented the following Cutting Edge awards:

- Cassandra Armstrong
- Jennifer Denlinger, CCC
- Steve DeShazo, CEC
- Fiona Espana, CWPC



American Culinary Federation
The Standard of Excellence for Chefs

- Sheila Osborne-Beck
- Eveline Rosado-Haliday
- Victor Sommo, CEC
- Samuel Spencer
- Brian Tatsukawa, CEC
- Kathleen Vossenber, CEC, CCE
- Elizabeth Faulkner
- Amaury Guichon
- Jeff Henderson
- Mariya Russell

Hundreds of professional chefs attend ACF's National Conventions each year for professional development opportunities and to enhance their culinary skills. The ACF National Convention features keynote speakers, cutting-edge demonstrations, a tradeshow, networking, awards ceremony, and live culinary competitions. Next year's ACF National Convention will take place in New Orleans, July 17-19, 2023. Register to attend on the ACF website, [acfchefs.org/events](https://www.acfchefs.org/events).

###

About the American Culinary Federation

The American Culinary Federation, Inc. (ACF), established in 1929, is the standard of excellence for chefs in North America. With more than 12,000 members spanning more than 170 chapters nationwide, ACF is the leading culinary association offering educational resources, training, apprenticeship and programmatic accreditation. In addition, ACF operates the most comprehensive certification program for chefs in the United States, with the Certified Executive Chef®, Certified Sous Chef®, Certified Executive Pastry Chef® and Certified Culinary Educator® designations accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies. The American Culinary Federation Education Foundation is home to ACF Culinary Team USA, the official representative for the United States in major international culinary competitions, and to Chef & Child, founded in 1989 to promote proper nutrition in children and to combat childhood obesity. For more information, visit www.acfchefs.org. Find ACF on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and digital publications hub WeAreChefs.com.

6816 Southpoint Parkway, Ste 400 | Jacksonville, FL 32216
Phone: (904) 824-4468 | Fax: (904) 940-0741 | acf@acfchefs.org | www.acfchefs.org