Nguyet Nguyen Wins Title of ACF Central Region Pastry Chef of the Year

Nguyen’s pastry skills impress judges, and she advances to the national competition.

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla., March 29, 2010—Nguyet Nguyen, of Shawnee Mission, Kan., assistant pastry chef at The Westin Crown Center Hotel, Kansas City, Mo., received the American Culinary Federation, Inc., (ACF) Central Region Pastry Chef of the Year award at the 2010 ACF Central Regional Conference held at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown, Indianapolis, March 26-28. Nguyen accepted the award at last night’s Celebrating Regional Excellence Awards Gala.

Sponsored by Splenda®, the 2010 ACF Central Region Pastry Chef of the Year award recognizes a pastry chef who has displayed a passion for the craft, has an accomplished reputation in the pastry field and has given back through the education of others by sharing his or her skills and knowledge. Nguyen competed against two other candidates before being declared the winner. As this year’s Central Region recipient, Nguyen will compete for the national title against the winners from the three other ACF regions at the 2010 ACF National Convention in Anaheim, Calif., Aug. 2-5.

Born in Vietnam, Nguyen’s family immigrated to the U.S. when she was 9 years old. After high school, Nguyen decided to pursue a medical career. In 2005, she earned a Bachelor of Arts in human biology from University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kan. Before applying to medical school, she took a tour of a culinary school in California and discovered her true passion. She earned a certificate in baking and pastry arts from Johnson County Community College (JCCC), Overland Park, Kan., in 2007, and an Associate of Applied Science degree in food and beverage management in 2008. Nguyen was a member of JCCC’s student culinary team from 2006 to 2008, serving as captain from 2007 to 2008. She is a member of ACF Greater Kansas City Chefs Association.

The 2010 ACF Central Regional Conference, hosted by ACF Greater Indianapolis Chapter, brought hundreds of chefs, cooks and foodservice professionals to Indianapolis. The conference provided attendees with opportunities to advance their professional development and enhance their culinary skills through business seminars, cooking demonstrations featuring the latest trends and techniques, cooking competitions and awards.

Sponsors of the 2010 ACF Central Regional Conference and ACF national award sponsors are: American Technical Publishers; Avocados from Mexico; Canada Cutlery Inc.; Central Region State Beef Councils; The Cheesecake Factory Bakery Inc.; Custom Culinary, Inc.; Gordon Food Service; Heinz North America; King & Prince Seafood; Koch Foods, Inc.; MARS Food Services; McFarling Foods, Inc.; MenuMax; MINOR’S®; NEWCHEF Fashion Inc.; NRA Conserve; R.L. Schreiber, Inc.; Riviana Foods Inc.; Splenda®; The Sterno Group; Sysco Indianapolis, LLC; Tyson Food Service; Unilever Foodsolutions; US Foodservice; Vitamix Corp.; and Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board.
The American Culinary Federation, Inc., established in 1929, is the premier professional organization for culinarians in North America. With more than 22,000 members spanning 230 chapters nationwide, ACF is the culinary leader in offering educational resources, training, apprenticeship and accreditation. In addition, ACF operates the most comprehensive certification program for chefs in the United States. ACF is home to ACF Culinary Team USA, the official representative for the United States in major international culinary competitions, and to the Chef & Child Foundation, founded in 1989 to promote proper nutrition in children and to combat childhood obesity. For more information, visit www.acfchefs.org.

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