



American Culinary Federation Press Release

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State University of New York at Delhi Student Julio Chavez Wins American Culinary Federation 2018 National Student Chef of the Year Competition

St. Augustine, Fla., July 30, 2018—The best student chef in the nation, according to the American Culinary Federation (ACF), is Julio Chavez, a student of the State University of New York (SUNY) at Delhi. Chavez received the 2018 ACF Student Chef of the Year award after winning a competition at **Cook. Craft. Create. ACF National Convention & Show**, held in New Orleans, July 15-19.

The [Student Chef of the Year Award](#), sponsored by Libbey® in 2018, recognizes a talented student or recent graduate who possesses a high degree of professionalism, culinary skill and passion for the culinary arts. The award was introduced in 1987 by the late Baron H. Galand, CEC, AAC, HOF, to help student members establish their position within ACF.

“The American Culinary Federation is pleased to recognize Julio Chavez as our National Student Chef of the Year for 2018,” said ACF National President Stafford T. DeCambra, CEC, CCE, CCA, AAC. “Chefs are lifelong students and consequently, ACF is committed to the education of culinarians at every level. Celebrating the achievements of student chefs from across the country is one of the highlights of our annual convention, and we congratulate Julio on this extraordinary accomplishment. We hope it is the start of a fulfilling and rewarding culinary career.”

To compete, students must first be nominated by ACF chapters for their level of skill, strong understanding of culinary fundamentals and classical cooking foundation. The nominees then compete to win regional competitions. At the national competition, the five finalists, including Chavez, the ACF Northeast Region Student Chef of the Year, had one hour to fabricate and cook and 10 minutes to plate four portions of a finished entrée based on lamb.

Chavez’s winning menu included a Mexican-inspired lamb trio.

Chavez is a member of the ACF Chefs and Cooks of the Catskill Mountains and will graduate in December with a bachelor's degree in Culinary Arts Management from SUNY Delhi. As a culinary student, Chavez has been actively involved in community service and been inducted into the Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society. He also serves as a teaching assistant for Signatures by Candlelight, the university’s student-operated restaurant.

More than 1,500 chefs, cooks, students and foodservice professionals attended **Cook. Craft. Create. ACF National Convention & Show** at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans. The event offered opportunities for professional development through informative workshops and seminars, cutting-edge demonstrations, a trade show, career fair and national culinary competitions. Keynote speakers included Iron Chef Masaharu Morimoto, culinary entrepreneur John D. Folse and Maneet Chauhan, executive chef/co-owner of Chauhan Ale & Masala House and judge on Food Network’s “Chopped.” Visit the [We Are Chefs](#) blog for more information on ACF’s 2018 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 15,500 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](#) and [Twitter](#).

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Photos of the 2018 ACF national award winners are available [here](#) and on the [ACF Flickr page](#). A [short video](#) on the competition is also available for download.