



American Culinary Federation
The Standard of Excellence for Chefs

American Culinary Federation

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American Culinary Federation Announces 2020 ACF National Awards Recipients ACF Conducts First National Virtual Awards Ceremony

ST. AUGUSTINE, FLA, **August 07, 2020** – The American Culinary Federation presented the following national awards via its first virtual ceremony.

National Chef Educator

- Jennifer M. Denlinger PhD., CCC

National Hermann G. Rusch Chefs Achievement Award

- Louis Perrott, CEC, AAC, HOF

ACF Humanitarian Award

- Ferdinand Metz, CMC, AAC, HOF
- Dr. Lilly Metz

ACF Industry Partner Award

- Jones Dairy Farm
 - o Phillip Jones, President of Jones Dairy Farm
 - o Jim Glynn, National Foodservice Sales Manager

National Chapter of the Year

- ACF Washington State Chefs Association
 - o Brandon LaVielle, CEC Chapter President

Dr. L.J. Minor Chefs Professionalism Award

- Brian Hardy, CEC, CCA, AAC

-More-



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The [ACF National Educator of the Year](#) award pays tribute to an active culinary educator whose knowledge, skills and expertise have enhanced the image of the professional chef, and who, by example, has given leadership, guidance and direction to students seeking a career in the culinary profession. This person demonstrates the ability to help students define and develop their careers by using their skills and abilities to provide a strong foundation for their future success.

The [Hermann G. Rusch Chef's Achievement Award](#) began in 2002. The award honors chefs who have demonstrated a high level of commitment to ACF and the advancement of the culinary profession. The award is named in honor of Hermann G. Rusch, AAC, (1907–1997), an ACF member instrumental in the advancement of the culinary profession through leadership and the enrichment of students.

The national [Dr. L.J. Minor Chef Professionalism Award](#) is presented to the chef who exemplifies the highest standard of professionalism through certification, continuing education and training, culinary competitions and community involvement. It honors culinarians who help elevate the status of chefs and cooks in the United States.

In addition, ACF members were recognized for contributions made during 2019 - 2020.

Spirit of Aloha

Edward Adel, CEC
Wilfred Beriau, CEC, CCE, AAC
Raimund Hofmeister, CMC, AAC
Frank Leake, CCC, CCE, AAC
Matthew Schellig, CEC, CEPC, CCE, CCA
John Selick, CEC, CCA, AAC
Ka'ala Souza

Achievement of Excellence

Kelly Cook, CEC, AAC
Keith Fournier, CCC
Todd Gold, CEC, CCA, AAC
J.J. (Maynard) Meland, CEC, CCA WCCE
Dulce Miriam Mendoza Cruz

Region of the Year

Western Region – Robert Phillips, CEC, CCA, AAC
Central Region – Steven Jilleba, CMC, CCE, AAC
Northeast Region – Barry Young, CEC, CCE, AAC, MBA
Southeast Region – Kimberly Brock Brown, CEPC, CCA, AAC



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Presidential Medallion

Lawrence Alexander, CCC
Mary Berg
Jacques Brevery, CEC, AAC, PhD.
Michelle Brown, CEPC
Americo DiFronzo, CEC, CCA, AAC
Eric Ernest, CEC, CCA, AAC
Kevin Gawronski, CMC
Chloe Gibb, CPC
Martin A. Gilligan, CEC, CEPC
Andrew Greene, CCC
Fred Griesbach, CEC, AAC
Susan Hendee, PhD., CCE, HAAC
John Kukuchka, AAC
Jack London, CEC
Shawn Loving, CMC, CCA
Jay Mahoney, CEC, AAC
Susan Notter, CEPC
Richard Panzera, CEC, CCE, AAC
Tiffany Poe, CEC
Timothy Recher, CEC
Maddie Sharp
Paul G. Suplee, CEC
Travis Teska
William Thornton, CEC, CCE

Honorary Lifetime Membership Recording

Mauricio Armendaris
Fatima Gastillo
Efun Clinton Zhu
Thomas Gugler
Gert Klotzke
Ryan Marquis
Otto Weibel

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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 15,000 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 acfchefs.org. Find ACF on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and digital publications hub WeAreChefs.com.