

News Release

South Seattle Community College

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Culinary Arts Students Win State Championship

South Seattle Community College Culinary Arts students won the Washington State Preliminaries of the American Culinary Federation's Junior Hot Food Competition on March 3.

Students on the winning team included Sarah Keeffe (team captain), Brendan Calnan, Jeffrey Aquino, Tasha Parker and Steve Cheng (alternate). The team was led by Instructor-Chef Stephen Sparks, CEC, CCE. The team was awarded the rank of silver medal in their winning effort.

As winners of the Washington State Preliminaries, Souths's Junior Hot Food Team will represent the state in the Western Regional Finals in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho in April.

The students took part in the American Culinary Federation Junior Hot Food Competition, which was sponsored by the Washington State Chefs Association and hosted by Olympic Community College. The American Culinary Federation is the preeminent culinary organization in the United States. It is not only responsible for accrediting college programs but awards professional certification levels and helps perpetuate the culinary profession.

Getting to regional finals in Coeur d'Alene, however, was not as easy as it sounds. During the timed competition, which lasted approximately four hours, the teams were required to create a four course meal for four people, as well as preparing all elements of the meal on site. The teams also were judged on elements such as knife skills, sanitation, organization and general flow of preparation.

This is the third time that students from the Culinary Arts Program have represented the State of Washington at the Western Regional conference. In 2001 the hot food team won the Western Regional competition and moved to be one of the top four teams in the country at the National competition in Las Vegas, finishing second in the nation.

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