



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gifts from the Earth

*South Seattle Community College Annual Food and Wine Event
Celebrates Hospitality Industry*

SEATTLE, WA – An all-star cast of 15 celebrity chefs from the Seattle area, 30 Washington state wineries, local companies, and South students will join together to celebrate the hospitality industry and raise funds for college programs and student scholarships at the annual *Gifts from the Earth* gala. The festivities, sponsored by Food Services of America, take place Saturday, January 24, 2009, at South Seattle Community College. The evening features hors d'oeuvres, wine tasting and a silent auction, followed by dinner and a live auction of unique fine wine and dining packages.

It's the can't-miss event of the year, as the region's top chefs each prepare a multi-course culinary feast for two tables of 10 guests each. Each course will be paired with fine wine from one of 30 Washington wineries, and South's own Wine Academy students will serve as sommeliers.

Celebrity chefs include: Peter Birk – Ray's Boathouse; Dalis Chea – Herban Feast Catering; Craig Hetherington – TASTE; David Hoyle – Westin Bellevue; Jeremy McLachlan – Salty's on Alki; Will McNamara – Washington Athletic Club; John Neumark – Serafina; Marc Powers – Sip; Lenny Rede – South Seattle Community College; Stephen Sparks – South Seattle Community College; and Dan Thiessen – O/8 Seafood Grill. Additional chefs to be announced.

Wineries scheduled to participate to date include: Avery Lane, Brian Carter Cellars, Cadence Winery, Caterina, Chandler Reach, Desert Hills, Domaine Ste. Michelle, Gamache Vintners, Hoodsport, MaryHill, Northstar, Northwest Wine Academy, Nota Bene, OS Winery, Pleasant Hill, Tsillan Cellars, Two Mountain Winery, Willis Hall and Zerba Cellars.

Gifts from the Earth is more than a unique fundraising event; it also provides invaluable, hands-on learning and professional networking opportunities for South Seattle Community College students. Hospitality Management bachelor's degree program students manage guest relations, Culinary Arts students prepare meals alongside celebrity chefs, and students in the Wine Technology program pour wine with winemakers.

Title sponsor Food Services of America (FSA) is the nation's sixth largest foodservice distributor, serving customers in 15 western and mid-western states from nine regional distribution centers. This is the second consecutive year that FSA, a long-time supporter of South's award-winning culinary and hospitality industry programs, has participated as *Gifts from the Earth* title sponsor. Additional sponsors include Boeing, Union Bank of California, and Interbay Foods.

Tickets may be purchased for \$175 per person. Corporate and table sponsorships ranging from \$1,750 to \$10,000 are also available. More information on ticket purchase and sponsorship opportunities may be obtained by contacting the South Seattle Community College Foundation at (206) 764-5809, email to ssccfoundation@sccd.ctc.edu, or on the web at www.southseattle.edu/foundation/giftsfromtheearth/index.html.

South Seattle Community College is a leader in culinary arts education, with a highly regarded and award-winning Culinary Arts program accredited by the American Culinary Federation. The program offers degree and certificate programs in Restaurant & Food Service Production, Catering & Banquet Operations, and Pastry & Specialty Baking. The college is also site of the Northwest Wine Academy, a first-of-its-kind program in Western Washington that offers certificate programs in Wine Making, Wine Marketing & Sales, and Food & Wine Pairing. In addition, the college offers a four-year Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) degree in Hospitality Management.

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Media Inquiries

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