

News Release

South Seattle Community College

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 12, 2010

College Remembers Chef Stephen Sparks

Chef instructor influenced thousands of students.

A public celebration to honor Stephen Sparks, long-time South Seattle Community College Culinary Arts program chef instructor, will take place on Monday, March 22, at 1:30 pm in the Brockey Student Center. The event will feature reflections on Chef Sparks' life and accomplishments, along with tributes from family, friends, colleagues, and former students.

Chef Sparks, who passed away March 4 after a long battle with cancer, was a chef instructor in the college's Culinary Arts program for over 15 years. He was an exceptional faculty member, and instrumental in the development of the college's award-winning Culinary Arts program. He was honored for his teaching in 2001 with both a National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) award for Excellence in Teaching, and a Dan Evans Award for Exceptional Teaching.

He was certified by the American Culinary Federation as both a Certified Executive Chef (CEC) and a Certified Culinary Educator (CCE). He also held a Member of Fellow status in the Epicurean World Master Chef Society.

Chef Sparks' industry experience included positions as Executive Chef in California and Texas, Food Service Director at Ambassador University, and Culinary Arts instructor at Tyler Junior College. He earned numerous awards at professional culinary competitions, and was three-time past President of Professional Chefs of Northeast Texas. He was also awarded ACF Chapter Chef of the Year honors three times. He joined the South Seattle Community College faculty in 1994.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that donations be made to the South Seattle Community College Foundation for the Stephen and Laurie Sparks Endowed Scholarship.

Driving directions: www.southseattle.edu/campus/map.htm#sscc.



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