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## **South Seattle Community College Culinary Arts Students To Take Part in National Championship**

After securing their victory in a regional culinary competition last week, South Seattle Community College's Junior Hot Food Team will have the honor of competing in the preeminent national competition for culinary arts students this summer.

The road to the National Finals for the American Culinary Federation Junior Hot Food Competition, which will take place in Las Vegas this July, was not easy. The team of students first had to secure increasingly difficult victories in both state and regional legs of the competition. The team claimed their most recent victory at the Western Regionals in Kona, Hawaii on Jan. 22. The team also had to literally earn their way to the competition. In anticipation of making it to Hawaii, the team raised \$5,000 at a dinner fundraiser this summer.

"This victory is not just big for South Seattle Community College. This is a big thing for the state of Washington," said Stephen Sparks, chef-instructor and faculty coach of the victorious team.

Students on the winning team included team captain Alex Wilson, alternate captain William Mark, Suzanne Campbell, Alex Ma and Stephanie Salemann. The team, which had the highest point accumulation, was awarded the championship and the rank of silver medal at the American Culinary Federation competition in Hawaii.

The American Culinary Federation is the top culinary organization in the United States. It is not only responsible for accrediting SSCC's Culinary Arts Program but awards professional certification levels and helps perpetuate the culinary profession.

This is the latest honor for SSCC's Culinary Arts students who are unsurpassed in competition in the Northwest. Students at the college have received more gold medals for hot food, cold food and pastry categories than any other school in the region since 1994.

Chef Sparks and the Junior Hot Food Team members are available for interviews

For more information or to arrange for an interview contact:  
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