



A pairing of Washington's finest food & wine.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gifts from the Earth

Annual South Seattle Community College 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 take place **Saturday, January 30, 2010**, at South Seattle Community College, beginning at 5 pm. 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 create their own menus and prepare a multi-course culinary feast for two tables (20 guests) each. All the courses are paired with fine wine from one of 30 Washington wineries, poured by student sommeliers from South's own Northwest Wine Academy.

Celebrity chefs include: Peter Birk – Ray's Boathouse; Dalis Chea – Herban Feast and Fresh Bistro; David Engler – Seattle Golf Club; Craig Hetherington & Paul Rosquita – TASTE; David Hoyle – Westin Bellevue; Jeremy McLachlan – Salty's on Alki; Sean Rogers – Broadmoor Country Club; Brian Scheehser – Trellis; Ian Thompson – Pacific Grill; Leonard Rede – Northwest Wine Academy; and Will McNamara & Eric Floyd – Washington Athletic Club. Additional chefs and participating wineries to be announced.

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 third 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, Charlie's Produce, Interbay Foods, and Tony's Coffee.

Tickets for this unforgettable evening 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, and celebrated the first class graduation in June, 2009.

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