



A pairing of Washington's finest food & wine.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Heather Foss
(206) 768-6616
hfoss@sccd.ctc.edu

Gifts from the Earth - Celebrity Chefs and Wineries

Celebrity chefs and wineries announced for annual college gala.

(Seattle, WA) – South Seattle Community College is pleased to announce the all-star lineup of celebrity chefs participating in *Gifts from the Earth*, an annual event that celebrates the hospitality industry while raising funds for college programs and student scholarships. The gala features 15 of the region's top chefs who donate their time and services in support of the college. These top chefs prepare a multi-course culinary feast for two tables (20 guests) each, and pair every course with fine wine donated by one of the 30+ participating Washington state wineries.

The festivities, sponsored by Food Services of America, 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.

Celebrity Chefs:

Peter Birk – Ray's Boathouse; Dalis Chea – Herban Feast Catering; David Engler – Seattle Golf Club; John Hart – Seattle Sheraton; Craig Hetherington – TASTE; Robert Houot – South Seattle Community College; Brock Johnson – Dahlia Lounge; Renato Medranda – Westin Bellevue; Jeremy McLachlan – Salty's on Alki; Will McNamara and Eric Floyd – Washington Athletic Club; Cody Reaves – SIP Restaurant; Leonard Rede – Northwest Wine Academy; Sean Rogers – Broadmoor Golf Club; Brian Scheehser – Trellis; and Ian Thompson – Pacific Grill.

Participating Wineries:

Adams Bench, Alexandria Nicole Cellars, ANIMALE, Anton Ville Winery, Arlington Road, Barons V, Bob Betz Winery, Brian Carter Cellars, Chandler Reach Vineyards, Chateau Ste. Michelle, Columbia Winery, Covington Cellars, Cuillen Hills Winery, Davenport Cellars, DeLILLE Cellars, Epsom, Fall Line Winery, Falling Rain Cellars, Guardian Cellars, Hollywood Hill Vineyards, Isenhower Cellars, Mark Ryan Winery, Northwest Totem Cellars, Northwest Wine Academy, :Nota Bene Cellars, Patterson Cellars, Pleasant Hill Winery, Silver Lake Winery, Smasne Cellars, SodoVino, Stevens Winery, Stomani Cellars, Two Mountain Winery, William Church Winery, Willis Hall, and Woodhouse Family 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 third consecutive year that FSA, a long-time supporter of South's award-winning culinary and hospitality industry programs, has participated as the *Gifts from the Earth* title sponsor. Additional sponsors include Boeing, Charlie's Produce, Interbay Food Company, Tony's Coffee, and Union Bank.

Tickets for *Gifts from the Earth* 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 degree and 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, which celebrated the first class graduation in June, 2009.

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(206) 768-6873 / coehler@sccd.ctc.edu

