SEATTLE, WA – The all-star lineup of celebrity chefs participating in South Seattle Community College’s annual Gifts from the Earth gala is complete. With the generous support of local celebrity chefs “Gifts from the Earth” celebrates the hospitality industry and raises funds for college programs and student scholarships, features 15 of the region’s top chefs who will prepare a multi-course culinary feast for two tables of 10 guests each. Every course will be paired with fine wine from participating Washington state wineries.

The festivities, sponsored by Food Services of America, take place January 26, 2013 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.

Celebrity Chefs:

John Armstrong - Sheraton Seattle; Jay Delong - Canape; Carly Duke and Mark Guth - Emerald Cove; Eric Floyd - WAC; Dan Gilmore - Hunt Club at Sorrento Hotel; Mark Hammond - Red Lion on 5th; Robert Hout - South Seattle Community College; Jeff Maxfield - Sky City; Ryan O’Brien - Palisade; Lenny Rede - Northwest Wine Academy; Brain Schehser - Trellis; Stacy Sparks - Q-Café; Ethan Stowell - Ethan Stowell Restaurants; Brian Sullivan - Salish; Frank Wielgosie - The Tin Table, and Nate Simmons - Serafina.

Gifts from the Earth is a unique fundraising event, which in addition to raising funds for students at South, also provides valuable, 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 fourth 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, Union Bank, Ferguson Construction, Rebar & Associates, Southern Wine and Spirits, and McGranahan Architects.

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) 934-5809, email ssccfoundation@seattlecolleges.edu, or on the web at www.southseattle.edu/foundation/giftsfromtheearth/index.html.

Celebrity Chef Profile -

South Seattle Community College is a leader in culinary arts education, with a highly regarded and award-winning Culinary Arts program. 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.