

## OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PROMOTIONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## GCC Culinary Arts program earns ACF accreditation

It is yet another accolade for the stellar Culinary Arts program at Guam Community College that helps to provide fine dining experiences from one end of Guam to the other. The GCC Culinary Arts and Food Services Department received news of its program accreditation certificate from the American Culinary Federation (ACF) on February 12<sup>th</sup>. The accreditation period will last through December 31, 2022.

"Getting the ACFEF Culinary program accreditation is not an easy task. There are 52 ACFEF standards that our Culinary Program has to meet in order to be accredited," noted Vicky Schrage, GCC Culinary Arts and Food Services Department chair.

"What does the ACFEF program accreditation means for our students? It means that in the next five years, graduates of GCC Culinary Program are eligible to receive the American Culinary Federation (ACF) Certified Culinarian certification, which would allow them to compete for positions above entry-level," Schrage added. "As someone who has been involved in this program from high school through postsecondary, I am extremely proud to have overseen this accreditation effort. This certificate proves what the chefs and I have known for years – that our program takes students with raw talent and refines that talent to provide our island's finest restaurants with the outstanding chefs and cooks that turn dining on Guam into an amazing sensory experience," said Schrage.

"GCC commends Vicky Schrage, Culinary Arts and Food Service Department Chair, and our two chefs, Paul Kerner and Bertrand Haurillon, and the rest of the program faculty and staff for their tireless efforts in preparing for the campus visit last November and for instituting the actions that needed to be completed to secure this important department milestone," said Dr. Ray Somera, GCC Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Dr. Somera added that the Culinary Arts and Food Services ACF accreditation is great news for the college, as GCC prepares for its regional accreditation visit from a team of accreditors from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, from March 7-9, 2018.

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