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Grayson High Technical Education Program earns first national culinary arts certification in Georgia

Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS) students enrolled in culinary arts courses in Grayson High’s Technical Education Program are now part of a nationally certified institution, meaning the students will graduate completing the highest level of standards obtainable in secondary education. The American Culinary Federation (ACF) recently notified the Grayson High Technical Education Program of its culinary arts industry certification, the first national certification awarded to a Georgia high school culinary arts program. A reception to celebrate the school’s accomplishment and a presentation of the students’ skills will take place Friday, November 13, 2009, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., at the Grayson High Technical Education Program building, located on the Grayson High campus, 50 Hope Hollow Rd. in Loganville.

During the reception, guests will experience first-hand the culinary skills students learn in the classroom. The culinary arts students will make a presentation as they roll sushi to order, a carving station will serve roasted beef tenderloin, while crepes with apricot also will be served. All items will be prepared by the students under the leadership of teacher and certified chef Jennifer Hill Booker.

The year-and-a-half long process to earn American Culinary Federation Foundation Secondary Certification (ACFFSC) process began in May of 2008 with a kick-off Iron Chef Competition. Representatives from the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) were present to witness, judge, and critique the Iron Chef competitors as they practiced what they had learned in Gwinnett classrooms.

Throughout the last year, the Grayson High Technical Education Program completed a detailed study of the school’s culinary arts program, reviewing Academic Knowledge and Skills (AKS) curriculum, facilities, and teacher education, verifying that the ACF standards were met. In addition, Grayson High Technical Education Program students hosted visits from the American Culinary Federation (ACF) as part of its National Board Committee review.

The culinary arts courses at Grayson High Technical Education Program began in 2004.

News media representatives are invited to visit the culinary arts program during the Friday, November 13, certification reception.