



Job Corps Students to Represent Nevada in Culinary Competition

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(Reno, NV) – Three students from Sierra Nevada Job Corps Center (SNJCC) will travel to San Francisco next week to compete in the Regional Food Expo Competition. The students will represent Nevada’s Job Corps program in the competition between students from 13 Job Corps centers on the West coast.

The competition has two components - knowledge and skill. The knowledge portion includes a written test and a Jeopardy-style team question and answer segment. SNJCC students won second place in the knowledge category in last year’s competition. The skill portion includes a knife skill demonstration where students must demonstrate and identify basic cuts. They are required to fillet a fish and piece of tenderloin and prepare a whole chicken into eight cuts. Students must also prepare a meal with two appetizers, one entrée and two desserts in the cooking component.

The top winners from the cooking component then face off in a “mystery basket” challenge that determines the champion. Much like television’s Iron Chef America, students are given a basket of unknown ingredients and must create a meal from the elements they are given. Oscar Ayala, Lakendrick Wells and Ruby Moreno leave for the competition on Monday, October 12. They will travel to San Francisco to the Treasure Island Job Corps Center where the competition will take place.

The students have prepared for this competition for weeks now and are raring to go. “I feel excited and anxious at the same time,” said Oscar Ayala. “We cook three hours a day and study three to four hours a day, five to six days a week. Our instructor has helped us prepare so we are ready for the competition and anything that comes our way.”

“The pressure is on for these future chefs,” said Chef Ed Watts, SNJCC culinary instructor. “They are a very cohesive team, even working on the weekends and their own time to study. It is such a pleasure to have such a great team of students competing.”

For more information, student interviews or photo opportunities, please contact Sierra Nevada Job Corps Center Business & Community Liaison Helyse Sina, at 775- 789-0803 (office), 775-338-4584 (cell) or sina.helyse@jobcorps.org

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Sierra Nevada Job Corps Center is an educational and vocational training center for underprivileged Nevada youth ages 16-24. The program offers the chance to earn a G.E.D., high school diploma, training in one of 16 different vocations and up to two years of college for free. SNJCC, run by Management & Training Corporation, has operated in Reno for 30 years, training more than 800 students annually.