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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Amateur chefs to test their expertise at culinary competition**

OMAHA, Neb. — Over 120 high school students representing 17 Nebraska and Iowa schools will showcase their culinary expertise at the 10<sup>th</sup> annual ICA High School Culinary Invitational, Feb. 20 at the Institute for the Culinary Arts on Metropolitan Community College's Fort Omaha Campus, 32<sup>nd</sup> and Sorensen Parkway. Teams will compete for culinary greatness by preparing three-course meals and presenting their own restaurant concepts.

Students will represent the following high schools: Beatrice, Bellevue East, Bellevue West, Fremont, Gross Catholic, home schools, Logan-Magnolia, Louisville, Milford, Millard Horizon, Omaha Career Center, Omaha Northwest Magnet, Omaha South, Papillion-La Vista South, Plattsmouth, Ralston and Roncalli Catholic.

The invitational is supported by MCC students, staff and faculty and by leaders in the food and hospitality industries. The event recognizes students for teamwork, excellence in culinary skills and knowledge of the industry. Additionally, it gives leaders in the industry the chance to interact with and evaluate future leaders. The event showcases the culinary arts and hospitality programs at MCC, which prepare students for careers in the food and hospitality industries.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit [mccneb.edu/chh/highschoolculinaryinvitational.asp](http://mccneb.edu/chh/highschoolculinaryinvitational.asp).

### **Friday, Feb. 20, 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Culinary Competition and Management Competition**

Teams participating in the Culinary Competition will demonstrate their creativity and culinary skills through preparation of a three-course meal in 60 minutes. Their performance will be observed and rated by judges from leading postsecondary colleges and universities, local chefs and restaurateurs.

In the Management Competition, students present their restaurant concept and are tested on their communication skills and their ability to apply knowledge of the restaurant and food service industry to practical situations.

Scholarships, gift certificates, medals and a trophy will be presented during the awards ceremony at 4:30 p.m.

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Metropolitan Community College, accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, is a comprehensive, public community college that offers affordable, quality education to all residents of Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy and Washington counties. Founded in 1974, MCC has the largest enrollment out of six community colleges in Nebraska and is the second largest postsecondary institution in the state. MCC serves more than 40,000 unique credit and noncredit students.