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American Culinary Federation Names 2018 Greater Buffalo Chef of the Year

Neal Plazio, executive chef at the University at Buffalo, will receive the award in June.

(Buffalo, NY) – Neal Plazio, executive chef for Campus Dining & Shops at the University at Buffalo, has been named the 2018 Chef of the Year by the American Culinary Federation (ACF) of Greater Buffalo.

Plazio joined Campus Dining and Shops in 2013 and brought with him over 40 years of experience in the food and beverage industry. As the executive chef, he oversees five chefs in three Residential Dining Centers and provides food management for both retail and catering operations. In addition to his day-to-day responsibilities, he is the Chair for the State University of New York (SUNY) Culinary Summit; a three day conference and team culinary competition. Plazio is also the Chair for the National Association of College and University Food Services (NACUFS) Northeast Culinary Challenge.

“It is a special honor and very well deserved,” said Jacqueline Bamrick, CEC, ACC, American Culinary Federation of Greater Buffalo Chapter President. “Neal has served his local ACF Chapter well and made a difference for our organization. He is a talented chef with years of experience. We are so pleased to award him 2018 Chef of the Year.”

The honor is chosen by a committee of past Chefs of the Year and to be nominated, candidates must be a Certified Executive Chef, a leader in the culinary/hospitality industry and maintain dedication to his/her craft and community as a whole. Plazio has been an ACF member for over 15 years and has honorably served the Greater Buffalo Chapter as both President and Treasurer of the organization.

“We are extremely proud and congratulate Chef Neal on this amazing award,” said Jeff Brady, executive director for Campus Dining and Shops. “He has done so much to elevate the collegiate dining experience here at UB and the profession in general throughout Western New York.

Plazio will be honored in June with a special dinner where he will receive the Chef of the Year Medal from the ACF Greater Buffalo Chapter.

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UB's Campus Dining & Shops' (CDS) primary purpose is to offer a variety of high quality, high value, and innovative dining options designed to fit the varied lifestyles and nutritional needs of the university community. CDS is a multi-unit company employing over 1,300 people. In addition to providing the university's dining services, CDS also serves the UB community through management of the UB Card Office, Three Pillars Catering, Retail and Convenience Stores, and Vending.

