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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local Students Win at Culinary Arts Competition

Twenty students from Northern California entered the *Best Teen Chef Local Cook-off* culinary competition held on Saturday, April 10. The competition was hosted by the Art Institute of Sacramento, one of 30 participating Art Institutes across the U.S. and Canada.

Two local Regional Occupational Program (ROP) students entered the competition. Cassie Buchholz, a Ponderosa High School student took first place and received a \$3,000 award toward her post-high school education. Samantha Liebergot from Oak Ridge High School placed third. Students were required to prepare a menu of shrimp cocktail, sauteed chicken breast, seasonal vegetables, and rice pilaf during timed rounds.

Cassie's first-place win allows her to fly to the Art Institute of Houston, Texas, on May 15, to participate in the *Best Teen Chef Final Round Competition*. The winner of the Final Round will receive a full-tuition scholarship towards a degree or certificate or diploma program to study at one of 30 participating Art Institute locations. In addition, the winner will also travel to the studios of the Food Network for a tour, dinner for two at a restaurant owned by a Food Network chef, and receive a library of cookbooks from the Food Network.

ROP Culinary Arts Instructor Mike Inks who oversees the new Culinary Arts Center and Foothill Grill located on the campus of El Dorado High School says, "I feel like a proud father. Of the culinary students from all of the other represented competitors' schools, the fact that our local ROP culinary class had two of the top three finishes is pretty cool. I am so proud of our students." Mike further noted that Cassie will also enter the Future Chefs competition on April 25th at the Sequoia Restaurant in Placerville along with co-students Kory Danielson, Edward Addiego, Samantha Liebergot, Mason Antonucci, and Jordyn Philips.