

Excellence Secondary



Kaitlyn Denczek

Culinary Arts and Hospitality

Capital Area Center Center

Haslett High School

Nominator: Chef Corbett Day, Instructor

“My decision to choose Culinary Arts as my career was fueled by the love of making people smile. I always felt happy preparing food and being in the kitchen. My mom would let me help her prepare different regional dishes starting at age five.” Kaitlyn passionately describes her reasons and feelings about her Culinary Arts Program. She commented, “you can take me out of a kitchen, but the passion I have can never be taken away because it is so deeply embedded inside me.”



Kaitlyn is a second year student and has completed enough high school classes to be in the Culinary Program at the Capital Area Career Center for a full school day throughout the week. She takes on the challenge of operating the catering services, which entails meeting the clientele, completing all of the contracts, ordering the products and linens, lining up the staff for the events, set-up and tear down of the events, billing, and follow-up survey with the client.

During Kaitlyn's time learning and honing her craft, she has managed to achieve multiple awards, scholarships, and medals. She was a State Champion in SkillsUSA, a National Gold Medalist in Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, and a Silver Medalist in ProStart State Competition in 2013. She believes her accomplishments will set her apart from the ordinary culinary student. She plans to attend and graduate from Sullivan University and then travel the world learning different cooking techniques. Ultimately, she would like to own her own catering business and put her creativity into food knowing that people are enjoying it.

Chef Corbett Day, Katie's nominator, says that “Katie is a chef's dream student, when it comes to professionalism and desire to secure proficiency in technical skills. She challenges not only herself, but pushes her classmates to make the program better. She is the total package when it comes to wanting to send a student out into the

workforce. There has never been a doubt in my mind about her abilities and dedication to the program and her profession.”

As long as I'm in the Culinary Arts industry, I will never work a day in my life.

~ Kaitlyn Denczek