

Merit Award



Ana Elizabeth Randall

Culinary Arts/Hospitality Program

Calhoun Area Career Center

Marshall High School

Nominator: Chef Steven Deal, Culinary Arts/Hospitality Program Instructor

Ana is able to translate her artistic ability into the dishes she creates. Her dishes are described as complex, dignified, esthetically appealing, and welcome to the palate. She relishes the opportunities to create recipes of the highest caliber.

In her program, Ana mentors new students to help them master culinary skills. She has provided demonstrations for other students and encourages others to follow her lead. She encourages others to gain more experience by volunteering for banquets and other culinary events.

Ana, armed with ServSafe Certification earned in her program, obtained a job as a pantry cook in a nice restaurant in Grand Haven last summer. Her experiences there in the “back of the house” were much different from those of her Career Center! She was one of only two women in what she described as a “sea of middle-aged pirates”, who continuously made inappropriate comments about women. She

ignored them by focusing on her work and, in time, earned their respect, but it was an eye-opening experience.



Ana currently works as a pantry chef at a Bistro in Battle Creek, where she has an affinity for desserts. She is a junior member of the American Culinary Federation. She is also one of the first students in her program to obtain a spot on the ProStart Culinary Team as a first year student. This year, she is participating again as part of an all-girl team.

At her home school, she has been involved in competitive swimming, basketball, and theatrical productions. She is a volunteer for the Special Olympics and the Humane Society. She lifeguards and has taught swimming lessons at a local swimming organization.

Ana plans to attend the Culinary Arts Program at Baker College of Muskegon. She is interested in becoming a Pastry Chef and aspires to become an entrepreneur who someday opens her own restaurant.

The struggles and stereotypes are many, but the rewards are just as great.

~ Ana Randall