

MEDIA ADVISORY

Gilroy Unified School District Students Cook Up Healthy Mexican-Inspired Recipes in the 2019 “Sodexo Future Chefs Challenge”

WHAT: While healthy eating can be a challenge for kids and parents, elementary school students in Gilroy Unified will use their creativity and culinary skills to make healthy Mexican-Inspired recipes in the 2019 “Sodexo Future Chefs Challenge.” The national initiative, now in its ninth year, was created to get students thinking about making healthy food choices while also encouraging them to be active and creative in the kitchen. Gilroy Unified students are joining over 2,700 other students representing more than 1,400 Sodexo-served school sites in 30 states nationally.

Over twenty-one elementary school students submitted healthy Mexican-Inspired recipes and the eight best were selected to participate in the district-wide finals event. Finalists will prepare and present their creations before being assessed on criteria including originality, taste, kid friendliness and use of healthy ingredients. Gilroy Unified joins 266 other school districts across the country holding Future Chefs events throughout February and March. The winning student from each participating district will be considered for 40 regional finalist awards, and the selected regional finalists will vie to become one of five national finalists competing for the public’s vote on SodexoUSA.com.

“According to the [American Heart Association](http://AmericanHeartAssociation), about one in every three American kids and teens is overweight or obese,” said Stephen Dunmore, CEO North America, Schools, Sodexo. “This staggering statistic demonstrates why it is more important than ever to engage youth to become advocates for their own health.”

Sodexo, the school nutrition partner to over 425 school districts throughout the U.S., is renowned for its work advancing childhood nutrition, health and well-being. In November 2016, Partnership for a Healthier America (PHA) named Sodexo “Partner of the Year” based in part on early success on elements of its commitments for increasing healthier food options in the K-12 schools it serves; providing healthier meal options for children at zoo, museum and aquarium locations served by Sodexo; and for its commitment to serve 17 million additional free breakfasts to K-12 students by 2018, which Sodexo met two years early. In addition, the award recognizes Sodexo’s efforts

beyond its PHA commitment including how it has created a culture of health across its extensive network of clients, customers, vendors and employees.

The Sodexo Future Chefs Challenge is just one of the many ways that the company shares its health and well-being expertise with the clients, customers and the communities it serves.

To join the Sodexo Future Chefs Challenge conversation on social media, use **#SDXFutureChefs**.

It is with great pleasure that we announce the eight finalists for Gilroy Unified School District's Future Chefs kids cooking program;

Contestant	School Site	Recipe
Kevin Carrillo	Eliot Elementary	"Sincronizada"
Rayen Garcia	Rod Kelley Elementary	"Quinoa Enchiladas"
Sandra Martinez Aguilar	Glen View Elementary	"Fish Tacos"
Myra Moniz	El Roble Elementary	"Myra's Tasty Cheese Tostadas"
Julia Finucane	El Roble Elementary	"Black Bean & Sweet Potato Taquitos"
Michael Sarment	Luigi Aprea Elementary	"Shrimp Tacos"
Jack Zukowski	Luigi Aprea Elementary	"Jardin de Peces"
Tamara Grace	Rucker Elementary	"Burrito Bowl"

WHEN: Wednesday, March 6, 2019

WHERE: Gilroy High School, Student Union building
750 West Tenth Street, Gilroy, CA 95020

PHOTOS OPS & INTERVIEWS:

3:00 pm Students arrive, kitchen prep begins

4:30 pm Display plates available. Judging begins

5:00 pm Awards Ceremony

CONTACTS:

Onsite Day-of-Event Contact	GUSD Media Contact
KARIS GULIZIA	MELANIE CORONA, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
PHONE (408) 420-0617	PHONE (669) 205-4095/ CELL (408) 607-2491
EMAIL CHARICE.GULIZIA@SODEXO.COM	EMAIL: MELANIE.CORONA@GILROYUNIFIED.ORG

###