

## FOUNDATION SENDS UNLV STUDENTS TO GET THEIR LEARN ON IN NYC



Mark Adams

Tue, Aug 13, 2013 (3:15 p.m.)

Two UNLV seniors are currently eating their way through New York City, talking to chefs and restaurateurs and gaining valuable industry knowledge before they graduate with hotel administration degrees next May.

The educational experience is just one element of the Epicurean Charitable Foundation, a local organization that offers scholarships and a mentoring program with local hospitality executives to CCSD high school students pursuing hospitality degrees at four-year universities.

The organization partners with Averro LLC, a restaurant management software company, to offer the annual Averro New York City Restaurant Education Experience, and chose ECF scholars Claudia Soler and Vildan Buric as the lucky recipients this year.

The culinary quest, which began August 12, is a four-day “educational immersion into the food and beverage industry.” Soler and Buric will experience some of the city’s “most prominent dining trends,” take a private tour of the NoMad Restaurant and attend site visits at eateries such as Tertulia and the Meatball Shop, as well as Mario Batali’s Italian food and wine marketplace, Eataly.

The experience “broadens” ECF’s mentorship program, as more than 20 of our local food and beverage and hospitality executives make themselves available to impart industry know-how to their mentees throughout the year. ECF is currently in its twelfth year of operation and thus far has provided more than \$1 million (and countless hours of helpful mentorship) to local scholars.

Up next on ECF’s radar is the annual scholarship benefit M.E.N.U.S. (Mentoring & Educating Nevada’s Upcoming Students), a dining in-the-round bash featuring the city’s most prominent restaurants. This year’s event is scheduled for October 4 at Luxor, and tickets can be purchased at [ecflv.org](http://ecflv.org).