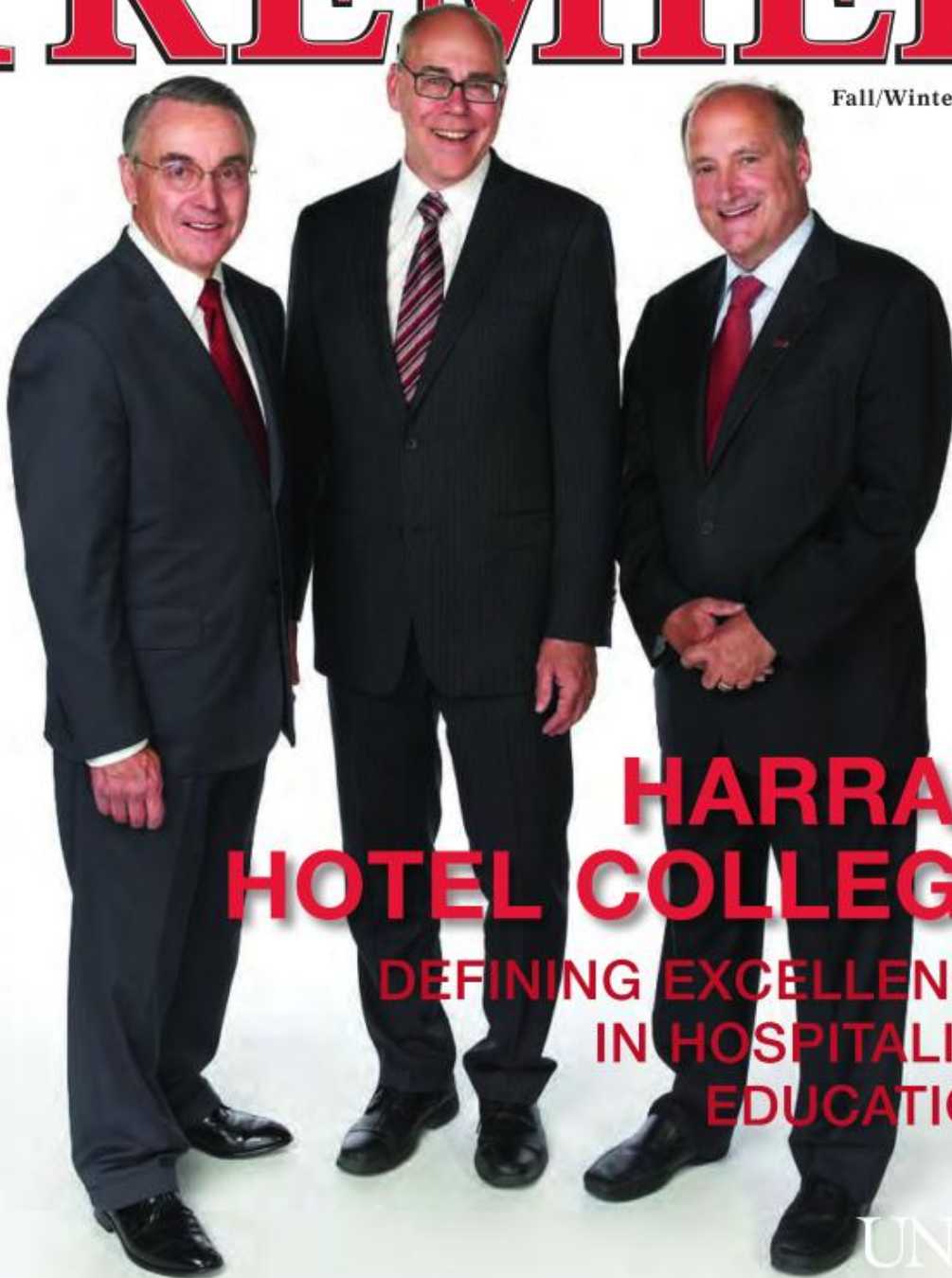


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**HARRAH
HOTEL COLLEGE**
DEFINING EXCELLENCE
IN HOSPITALITY
EDUCATION

UNLV

ECF Provides Valuable Support Robyn Campbell-Ouchida, '00 MA

For a dozen years, the Epicurean Charitable Foundation (ECF) of Las Vegas has provided financial and emotional support for deserving high school seniors seeking careers in the hospitality and culinary industries to attend college. This year was no different as the ECF chose four outstanding Clark County students as recipients of its prestigious scholarship program.

This year's class includes Andrea Rocca-Capano (Valley High School), Ally Rodriguez (Valley High School), Daniela Sanchez (Valley High School), and Qin Zhou (Durango High School). All four recipients plan to pursue degrees in hotel management at UNLV.

"The foundation received a remarkable number of applications from qualified students for the 2013 scholarships," says Jason Shkorupa, president of the ECF. "While it was difficult to narrow it down, we believe we have chosen the four students best prepared to lead this industry into the future."

Before graduating, Rocca-Capano served as vice president of Valley High

School's magnet program for the Academy of Hospitality and Tourism (AOHT) Council and recently received first place in Hospitality Service Team Decision Making at the Nevada DECA state competition.

Determined to have a successful future, Rodriguez is another well-rounded student from Valley High School. She's been involved with the Robotics Club, the German Club, and as a mentor coordinator in the school's magnet program for AOHT.

Another talented Valley High School recipient, Sanchez brings a talent for leadership to the hospitality industry. She served as the Nevada DECA state president as well as the student representative to the Nevada State Board of Education.

Representing Durango High School, Zhou is a native of southwest China and is bilingual, speaking both Mandarin and English. She recently completed five AP courses and earned a perfect-attendance record from January 2011 to January 2012.

According to ECF's Executive Director Elizabeth Hunterton: "Our students are selected by a rather rigorous process. Each spring, a few board members and I visit several schools throughout CCSD to inform seniors of our incredible scholarship. If they meet the criteria (minimum 2.75 GPA, annual family income not exceeding \$90,000, plans of pursuing a bachelor's degree in hospitality or related field), they submit their applications for consideration. Each student then goes through up to four interviews with our Scholarship and



Mentorship Committee before finally being selected.

"Our students receive \$28,000 if they are attending UNLV or up to \$48,000 if they are attending elsewhere. In addition to the money, students also receive one-on-one mentoring from one of the members of our board, which is composed of a veritable who's who in the hospitality industry."

ECF works to change the lives of Nevada's students and positively impact the community through generous contributions from donors, including Johnson Brothers, Southern Wine & Spirits, Wirtz Beverage Nevada, Diageo, Fiji Water, Coca-Cola, MGM Resorts International, Caesars Entertainment, and more.

Composed of more than 25 of Las Vegas' top food and beverage executives, the ECF not only awards students with scholarship funds to attend any four-year accredited university of their choice, but it also provides mentorship throughout each student's college career and helps place the students in internships and jobs. ■

The Epicurean Charitable Foundation Las Vegas can be reached by calling 702-932-5098 or by visiting ecfv.com.

Look for More

This fall, make plans to attend M.E.N.U.S. (Mentoring and Educating Nevada's Upcoming Students). This event features dining stations offering delicacies from some of the finest restaurants in town and a live concert. Previous performers at M.E.N.U.S. include Train, Counting Crows, Lifehouse, Al Green, Sarah Bareilles, Stevie Nicks, and Chicago. Last year's event, featuring a performance by Counting Crows, raised more than \$400,000 for the Epicurean Charitable Foundation in a single night.