

# 21 Years of Changing Lives MENTORSHIP MATTERS

Thursday, March 9th, 2023 Honoring the Meruelo Family



# HONORING The Meruelo Family



Born and raised to Cuban immigrants, Alex Meruelo grew up in Los Angeles with a passion for business. His career as an entrepreneur began when he established the popular chain La Pizza Loca in 1985. Today, Mr. Meruelo and his family own and operate businesses in multiple sectors including entertainment, media, gaming and hospitality, construction, sports, real estate, banking, and food services.

The Meruelo family is focused on philanthropic efforts improving education and working to bridge the gap of inequality and empower those from underrepresented backgrounds. The Meruelo Family has donated \$40,000 to the Epicurean Charitable Foundation, along with hosting ECF student interns at SAHARA Las Vegas.



# MENTORSHIP MATTERS 2023

March 9th, 2023 Stan Fulton Ballroom at UNLV

### WELCOME

Melissa Arias ECF Executive Director

### **M.E.N.U.S. 2022 VIDEO**

STUDENT SPEAKER Diana Loaiza, ECF/UNLV Class of '24

#### PRESENTATION OF GRADUATE SPEAKER Cameron Keenan, ECF/UNLV Graduate Class of '22

### SPONSORSHIP APPRECIATION Erik Tran, ECF/UNLV Class of '24 Isabella Sandoval, ECF/UNLV Class of '25

## SPONSOR AWARD CEREMONY

Colleen Birch, Chairwoman of the Board, ECF COO of Fontainebleau Las Vegas Kevin Ball, President of Epicurean Charitable Foundation VP of Purchasing for Fontainebleau Las Vegas

MENTORSHIP MOMENT Randy Sanchez Bonilla, ECF/UNLV Class of '25

#### PRESENTATION OF HONOREE Crystal Triguero, ECF/UNLV Class of '23

Alexis Meruelo Chief Purpose and Vision Officer at The Meruelo Group

SCHOLARSHIP REVEAL Ivette Aguirre Llaguno, ECF/UNLV Class of '25

**BOARD RECOGNITION & CLOSING STATEMENTS** 



# EPICUREAN CHARITABLE FOUNDATION'S Past Honorees

- 2021 Wayne Netwon, Legend, Icon, and Performer
- 2019 The Brady Family, Brady Industries
- 2018 Don and Lorie Forman, United Nissan
- 2017 Chef Hubert Keller, Celebrity Chef and Restaurateur
- 2016 Bill Foley II, Majority Owner of the Vegas Golden Knights
- 2015 Chuck Bowling, President and COO Mandalay Bay and Delano Las Vegas
- **2014 David Hoenemeyer,** Regional President of Caesars Entertainment: Bally's, Paris and Planet Hollywood Hotel & Casino
- 2013 Renee West, Chief Operating Officer, Luxor and Excalibur Hotel & Casinos
- **2012 James E. Rogers,** Founder/Owner of Intermountain West Communications Company
- **2011 10-Year Anniversary –** Honoring the ECF students of past, present and future.
- **2010 Anthony A. Marnell II,** Founder, CEO, Chairman of the Board of Marnell Corrao Associates, Inc.
- 2009 Vegas PBS
- 2008 Lon Kruger, Head Coach, UNLV Men's Basketball
- 2007 Andre Agassi, Founder, Andre Agassi Charitable Foundation
- **2006 Gary Loveman,** Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer, Harrah's Entertainment
- 2005 Jim & Heather Murren, Co-Founders, Nevada Cancer Institute
- **2004 Wallace R. Barr,** Former President and Chief Executive Officer, Caesars Entertainment
- 2003 Kenny C. Guinn, Governor, State of Nevada
- **2002 Larry Ruvo,** Senior Managing Director, Southern Wine and Spirits of Nevada
- **2002 J. Terrence Lanni,** Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, The Mirage Hotel & Casino

# **CONGRATULATIONS TO** ECF's Newest Scholarship Recipients!



## **Claire Cuddihy**

Mentor: Michael Kennedy University: UNLV Career Ambition: To bring my passion to a leadership role within the hospitality industry



Ivette Aguirre Llaguno Mentor: Megan Archambeault University: UNLV

Dream Job: Philanthropy Event Planner



Razelle Antipuesto Mentor: Amber Jung University: UNLV Dream Job: Bakery owner



Tony Rodriguez

Mentor: Vildan Buric University: UNLV Major: Hospitality Career Ambition: An upper management position in Food and Beverage such as president of F&B



Kyle Peng Mentor: Kelley Jones University: UNLV Major: Hospitality Management Dream Job: Owning a restaurant that focuses on sustainability and very fresh ingredients.

Because of the support of donors like you, ECF was able to provide 20 students full-ride scholarships in 2022.

# **EPICUREAN CHARITABLE FOUNDATION** Graduates & Students



Angela Szewczyk Class of 2008



**Ronald Giorgione** Class of 2008



Sabrina Karic Class of 2009



Martha Morales Class of 2009 BOARD MEMBER



**Catherine Caro** Class of 2010



Myra Aguirre Class of 2011



Alona Rideout Class of 2011



Hanny Herrada Class of 2011



Leizell Joy Seligbon Class of 2012



Cindy Ureno Class of 2012



Malek Sadri Class of 2013



Karina Saucedo Class of 2013



Nachely Martinez Class of 2013



Vesna Boskovic Class of 2013



Jennifer Lee Class of 2013



Nexie Hingpit Class of 2013



Ciro Fodera Class of 2014



Emily Hewett Class of 2014



Jasmvn Franklin Class of 2014



Jordan Moore Class of 2014



Claudia Soler Class of 2014



Vildan Buric Class of 2014 BOARD MEMBER



Wendy Pimental Class of 2014



Mercedes Sanchez Class of 2015



**Beatriz Portillo** Class of 2015

Class of 2017



Kim Zhou Class of 2015



Ailv Rodriguez Class of 2016



Alexandria Von Mohr Class of 2016



Karen Nava Class of 2016



Andrea Rocca-Capano Class of 2017



Candace Kozell Class of 2018



Melanie Saucedo Class of 2018



Mia Salomon Class of 2018



Anna Tymoshevska Class of 2019



Benjamin Sison Class of 2019









Maria Miranda Class of 2019



Geovanni Saucedo Class of 2020



Jasmine Ramos Class of 2020



Ashley Hassler Class of 2021



Brandon Scarberry Class of 2021



Kennedy Villegas Class of 2021



Monica Corral Class of 2021



Noe Martinez-Alvarez Class of 2021



Rocio Vasquez Class of 2021



Ashley Kozell Class of 2022



Bettina Bautista Class of 2022



Brkiti Brhan Class of 2022



Cameron Keenan Class of 2022



Susana Galindo Class of 2022



Sol Pacheco Class of 2022



Susana Galindo Class of 2022



Jasline Estavillo Class of 2022



Crystal Triguero Class of 2023



Miriam Munoz Gonzales Class of 2023



Erik Trans Class of 2024



Diana Loaiza Class of 2024



Penelope Reyes Class of 2025



Isabella Sandoval Class of 2025



Randy Sanchez Bonilla Class of 2022



Leyla Alverez Class of 2025



Ivette Aguirre Llaguno Class of 2025



Anthony Rodriguez Class of 2026



Claire Cuddihy Class of 2026



Kyle Peng Class of 2026



Razelle Antipuesto Class of 2026

# EPICUREAN CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

# Executive Committee

#### CHAIRWOMAN

Colleen Birch COO of Fontainebleau Las Vegas

#### PRESIDENT

#### Kevin R. Ball

Vice President Procurement, Fontainebleau Las Vegas

#### VICE PRESIDENT

#### Megan Humphreys

Vice President of Food and Beverage Strategy, MGM Resorts International

#### VICE PRESIDENT

#### Tom Gorball

Director of Food and Beverage, Sunset Station Hotel and Casino

#### TREASURER

**Robert Chiti** Director of Hotel & Guest Relations, Tao Group Las Vegas

#### SECRETARY

#### Marti Winer

Vice President of Event Productions, MGM Resorts International

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Melissa Arias Epicurean Charitable Foundation

#### OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMS MANAGER Christopher Alfieri

Epicurean Charitable Foundation

# Board of Directors and Members

Alyssa Mendes Caesars Entertainment

Amber Jung SAHARA Las Vegas

Anthony Olheiser SAHARA Las Vegas

Bruce Belcher Southern Glazers Wine, Spirits and Beer

Craig Gilbert Drive This Entertainment

Jason Charboneau Southern Glazers Wine, Spirits and Beer Jason Wade Breakthru Beverage Group

Kelley Jones Trust3 Hospitality, Kelley Jones Hospitality

**Ken Johnson** Four Queens Hotel & Casino/ Binion's Gambling Hall

**Leslie Bowman** Travel + Leisure Co.

Marisa Martino Bar-Kada Hospitality

Martha Morales Nobu Hotel Caesars Palace Megan Archambeault MGM Resorts International

Michael Kennedy South Point Hotel, Casino & Spa

Michael Scafuto M&M Group Entertainment

Sean DiCicco ClubCorp

Sherri Pucci Sosa MGM Resorts International

Travis Hackney Sysco

Vildan Buric Santa Fe Station Hotel and Casino

# Honorary Board Member

**Stowe Shoemaker** Dean of the William F. Harrah College of Hospitality at UNLV

# ECF STUDENTS ARE AN Investment Worth Making

ECF students are developed to succeed in their future employment with comprehensive work force development programs that provide university scholarships (tuition and books), unique one-on-one mentoring, networking opportunities, leadership guidance, and etiquette development.

- ECF has given **\$2.2 million** to Clark County Students through ECF scholarship funds.
- Our first scholarship was awarded in 2004.
- In 2022, ECF funds **awarded 20 students full-ride scholarships**. This includes tuition, books, and fees.
- ECF has over 200 books in our lending library.
- ECF students are prepared for life after college. All students receive leadership training, business luncheon and etiquette guidance, financial acumen seminars, and one-on-one mentoring.
- CCSD students have a four-year graduation rate of about 18 percent. In recent years, ECF's college graduation rate has been an **astounding 83%**.
- Our 2021 class of recipients is comprised of 5 promising students from different CCSD high schools. Our incoming class has an average high school GPA of 3.97.
- ECF students give back- all students must volunteer at least 60 hours. ECF students have volunteered over 1,200 hours in 2022!
- All students maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA. Last semester's average GPA was an impressive 3.60.
- 80% of ECF students made the Dean's List for fall of 2022.
- All ECF students are currently attending UNLV's Harrah College of Hospitality.
- ECF has come full circle with alumna, Martha Morales joining the ECF board in 2016 and Vildan Buric joining in 2022.
- ECF partners with local organizations to support our students like Dress for Success, Tiger Todd HERO Foundation, Cultural Diversity Foundation, Public Education Foundation, Las Vegas Motor Speedway Children's Charities, and UNLV's Student Support Services.
- ECF graduates are climbing the corporate ladder. We have graduates in roles of Nobu Las Vegas General Manager, Santa Fe Station Director of Food & Beverage, Premium Manager at Allegiant Stadium, Assistant General Manager at The Signature MGM, Assistant Director of Finance at the Ritz Carlton Lake Tahoe, Assistant Manager for Gordon Ramsay Burger, Assistant Front Office Manager at Encore Tower Suites, Front Desk for The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas, Academy of Hospitality and Tourism Instructor at Valley High School, Social Media Specialist for the Venetian Resort & Casino, Executive Casino Host at Wynn Las Vegas, Supervisor for The Premium Clubs at Allegiant Stadium, Front Desk Rooms Coordinator at The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas, Event Services Supervisor for MGM Event Production, just to name a few.



Support Our Students

# Special Thanks to

Aaron Newman Affinity Gaming AJ Sona Alexis Meruelo Alvssa Mendez Amber Jung Amy Chong Anita Thomas Anthony Olheiser Anthony Rodriguez Anuhea Hawkins Avero IIC Balla Italian Soul Bazaar Meat Beauty & Essex Beniamin Sison Blue Ribbon Sushi Border Grill Bottiglia **Brady Industries** Breakthru Beverage Bret Bananto Brian Cunningham Brian Kish Bruce Belcher Bryce Clark Butch Lidaett Caesars Entertainment Cameran Keenan Canyon Ranch Carolyn Welch Casa Blanca Chantelle Mark Chickie's & Pete's Crabhouse and Sports Bar Chinglish Wine Bar Christopher Alfieri **Claire Cuddihy Colleen Birch** Corinne Burton Craig Gilbert Cultural Diversity Foundation Dan Fenton DelMonico Steakhouse Dentsu Creative

Derek Tadashi Morishita

#### Diana Loaiza

Dimitrije Curcic E&J Gallo Edrington Emeril Lagasee Foundation Emeril's Fish House and Delmonico Emily Gorman Erik Tran FIJI Water First Class Vending and Coffee Service Four Queens Garv Charmel Get Fresh Sales Grea Stenson Guy Fieri's Vegas Kitchen & Bar Hakkasan Hanks Harold Robinson House of Blues/ Foundation Room Hugos Humberto Trueba Ian Seidenberg Isabella Sandoval Ivana Cveiic Ivette Aquirre Llaguna Jackson Family Wines Jason Charboneau Jason Wade Joanne Barnes John Mautner Johnson Brothers Joni Flowers Jordan Moore Joseph Donato Juan Villa Kanaelah Harper **Kellev Jones** Ken Heck Ken Johnson Kevin Ball Kevin McCracken **Kyle Peng** LAVO

Lenzi Woodbury Lesley Bowman Levia Alvarez Luiz Oliveira Malek Sadri Maria Gatti Marisa Martino Mariorie Alguizalas Martha Morales Marti Winer Matthew Marsh Mava Komadina Megan Archambeault Megan Humphreys Melissa Arias Mesquite Gaming MGM Resorts Event Productions MGM Resorts International Michael Kennedy Michael Scafuto Michelle Harrison Miriam Munoz Gonzalez Mitch Preston Modelo/Crown Imports Nate Hedlund Nicholas & Co. Nikki Neu Other Mama Restaurant Paide Darensbourg Paul Lagudi PepsiCo Preventive Pest **Randy Sanchez Bonilla Razelle Antipuesto** Resorts World Rob Baker Robert Campbell Robert Chiti Robert Dolan Robert Keenan Winerv Robert Meza Rodney Strong Ronnie Rainwater Sage Hunt Samantha Butler

Samantha Cambridge Samantha Curry Sambalatte Sandra Hinkelbein Scotch 80 Prime Scott Miller Sean DiCicco Seminole Gaming Shaina Graham Shavne Brown Sherri Pucci Sosa Silverado Steakhouse Smith & Wollensky Sonoma South Point Hotel, Casino, & Spa Southern Glazer's Wine, Spirits & Beer State Restaurant Equipment Steve Kim Stowe Shoemaker Summit Spirits & Wine Superfrico Svsco T Bones Tami Montalvo Tao TAO Group Terry J. & Susan K. Hanson Foundation The Capital Grille The Meruelo Family The Noodle Den The Sahara Las Vegas **Tom Gorball** Top of Binions **Travis Hacknev** US Foods Vacation Village Resorts Via De Brazil Victor Sutter Vildan Buric Wendy & Ryan McDougall Whiskey Liquor Willie Garrett Zenshin

# M.E.N.U.S. 2022

M.E.N.U.S. 2022 was held on Friday, October 7h, SAHARA Las Vegas and featured an exclusive dine-around highlighted by the top chefs, restaurants, beverage distributors, and mixologists in the city. Guests enjoyed a Casablanca themed dine-around, paying homage to our great city with local entertainment and a top tier silent auction that raised \$50,000.























Scan the QR code to view more photos from M.E.N.U.S. 2022!

"One of the greatest values of mentors is the ability to see ahead what others cannot see and to help them navigate a course to their destination." — John C. Maxwell

# A TOAST TO THE MENTOR MATTERS PROGRAM FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT BREAKTHRU BEVERAGE GROUP

A LEADING NORTH AMERICAN DISTRIBUTOR OF THE WORLD'S TOP LUXURY PREMIUM WINE, SPIRITS, AND BEER BRANDS



# E&J. Gallo Winery

Proud to support the Epicurean Charitable Foundation and the future leaders of our hospitality community.

# **Cheers!**





# JOHNSON BROTHERS of NEVADA

JOHNSON BROTHERS SALUTES EPICUREAN CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



# QUALITY RUNS IN THE **Family**

The Sysco Brand family has been delivering quality, innovation and profitability for decades and we are passionately committed to the success of every customer, supplier, community and partner. Our services and solutions are crafted with our customers' diverse needs in mind and our family of products is unsurpassed, backed by the largest Quality Assurance team in the industry.



©2020 All Rights Reserved. Sysco Corporation. 482425

Cashman Photo Enterprises would like to thank Mentorship Matters for their dedication, commitment and significant contributions to our community.

# cashman photo

PORTRAIT STUDIO





CASHMAN CRYSTAL

WEDDINGS









PRO PHOTO LAB



THRILL RIDE PHOTOS



GREEN SCREEN EFFECT PHOTOS



# Thank You Alexis Meruelo CHIEF VISION OFFICER - THE MERUELO GROUP

The students and board of Epicurean Charitable Foundation express of sincere appreciation and gratitude to Alexis Meruelo.

Thank you for your commitment, leadership, and dedication to changing the lives of our ECF students. We are forever thankful for you, team SAHARA Las Vegas and Anita Thomas. You make an incredible difference.



THE CAESARS FOUNDATION IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE EPICUREAN CHARITABLE FOUNDATION





PEOPLE PLANET PLAY.

©2022, Caesars License Company, LLC.

# FOCUSED ON WHAT MATTERS

#### ENRICHMENT THROUGH SERVICE

Committed to mentorship and enrichment for local students interested in the hospitality industry – MGM Resorts proudly supports the ECF Mentorship Matters Program.





# EARTH'S FINEST WATER

On a remote island over 1,600 miles from the nearest continent, tropical rain slowly filters through volcanic rock into an ancient artesian aquifer. Drop by drop, FUI Water acquires the natural minerals and electrolytes that give it its signature soft, smooth taste. Perfected by nature, there's nothing on Earth quite like it.

#### FIJIWater.com



# PROUD SPONSOR OF ECF



# Fabulous





2535 S Las Vegas Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89109 702.761.7000 | saharalasvegas.com

# THANKS TO OUR 2022 M.E.N.U.S. Sponsors

# PRESENTING SPONSOR **S**ΛΗΛRΛ

# LAS VEGAS

## PLATINUM SPONSOR



## **GOLD SPONSORS**









## SILVER SPONSORS





# **GET FRESH**















**BradyIFS** 



e cashman photo



















PREVENTINE Show alen

(F) Tyson

