



Welcome

# *Mentorship Matters*

Honoring  
**Cynthia Kiser Murphey**



Celebrating 22 Years of Changing Lives  
Scholarship Breakfast  
Tuesday, February 27th, 2024

# *Honoring*

## **Cynthia Kiser Murphey**



Cynthia Kiser Murphey is General Manager for Palms Casino Resort ("Palms") in Las Vegas, an entity of the San Manuel Gaming & Hospitality Authority and the first casino resort to be owned and operated by a Native American tribe in Las Vegas.

Cynthia holds a bachelor's degree in Hotel & Restaurant Management and a master's degree in Hotel Administration from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where she was also part-time faculty and adjunct professor.

She is involved in a number of charitable and professional organizations and was named one of 25 "People to Watch" by Global Gaming Business magazine and honored with a lifetime achievement award from Las Vegas Magazine. She is proud to have served over 20 years as a Trustee to the UNITE HERE National Fund, which provides excellent health benefits for hospitality industry employees.

Cynthia values her time with her family in the outdoors where she enjoys hiking, skiing, and walking with her family's Dobermans.



# Program

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENT

**Melissa Arias**, *Executive Director*  
**Ivette Aguirre Llaguno**, *UNLV Class of '24*

## M.E.N.U.S. 2023 VIDEO

**Claire Cuddihy**, *UNLV Class of '25*

## GRADUATE SPEAKER

*Introduced by* **Isabella Sanchez**, *UNLV Class of '25*

**Benjamin Sison**, *UNLV Class of '19*

## SPONSORSHIP APPRECIATION

**Razelle Antipuesto**, *UNLV Class of '26*

**Kyle Peng**, *UNLV Class of '26*

## SPONSOR AWARD CEREMONY

**Colleen Birch**, *Chairwoman of the Board*

**Kevin Ball**, *President of the Board*

## MENTORSHIP MOMENT

**Leyla Alvarez**, *UNLV Class of '24*

## PRESENTATION OF HONOREE

**Diana Loaiza**, *UNLV Class of '24*

**Cynthia Kiser Murphey**, *Honoree*

## SCHOLARSHIP REVEAL

**Camila Rodriguez-Pineda**, *UNLV Class of '27*

## CLOSING STATEMENTS

# *Congratulations to*

## Our Newest Scholarship Recipients!



**Sarah Ochoa Diaz**  
UNLV/ECF Class of 2027  
Mentor: Michael Kennedy  
Dream Job: Director of  
Food & Beverage



**Ira De Jesus**  
UNLV/ECF Class of 2027  
Mentor: Amber Jung  
Dream Job: Hospitality  
Executive



**Alexia Genovese**  
UNLV/ECF Class of 2027  
Mentor: Megan Humphreys  
Dream Job: Own a Café



**Tahje Hutchinson**  
UNLV/ECF Class of 2027  
Mentor: Robert Chiti  
Dream Job: Sports Executive



**Aniya Strain**  
UNLV/ECF Class of 2027  
Mentor: Jason Charboneau  
Dream Job: Own a Coffee  
Shop



**Melanie Alveno-Caro**  
UNLV/ECF Class of 2027  
Mentor: Bruce Belcher  
Dream Job: Event Planner



**Camila Rodriguez-Pineda**  
UNLV/ECF Class of 2027  
Mentor: Tom Gorbali  
Dream Job: Event Planner



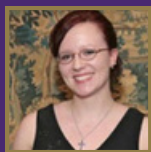
# *Past Honorees*

- 2022 - The Meruelo Family**, Owners of SAHARA Las Vegas
- 2021 - Wayne Newton**, Legend, Icon, and Performer
- 2019 - The Brady Family**, Distinguished Local Family
- 2018 - Don & Lorie Forman**, United Nissan
- 2017 - Hubert Keller**, Celebrity Chef & Restaurateur
- 2016 - Bill Foley III**, Majority Owner of the Las Vegas Golden Knights and Founder & Managing Partner of Foley Family Wines
- 2015 - Chuck Bowling**, President and COO of Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino 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 Students of Past, Present and Future
- 2010 - Anthony A. Marnell II**, Founder, CEO 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, President and CEO, 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 and CEO, The Mirage Hotel & Casino

*Honorees are listed with job position and company at the time of event.*



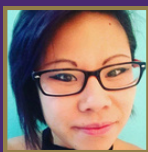
# 22 Years of Changing Lives



Angela Szewczyk  
Class of 2008



Ronald Giorgione  
Class of 2008



Su Lei Hang  
Class of 2008



Sabrina Karic  
Class of 2009



Martha Morales  
Class of 2009



Catherine Caro  
Class of 2010

BOARD MEMBER



Myra Aguirre  
Class of 2011



Alona Rideout  
Class of 2011



Hanny Herrada  
Class of 2011



Leizell Joy Seligson  
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



Jasmyr Franklin  
Class of 2014



Jordan Moore  
Class of 2014



Claudia Soler  
Class of 2014



Vildan Buric  
Class of 2014



Wendy Pimental  
Class of 2014

BOARD MEMBER



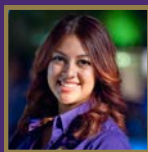
Mercedes Sanchez  
Class of 2015



Beatriz Portillo  
Class of 2015



Kim Zhou  
Class of 2015



Ally Rodriguez  
Class of 2016



Alexandria Von Mohr  
Class of 2016



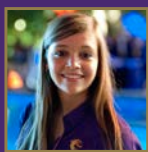
Karen Nava  
Class of 2016



Andrea Rocca-Capano  
Class of 2017



Daniela Sanchez  
Class of 2017



Candace Kozell  
Class of 2018



Melanie Saucedo  
Class of 2018



Anna Tymoshevska  
Class of 2019



Benjamin Sison  
Class of 2019



Mia Salomon  
Class of 2019



Giovanni Saucedo  
Class of 2020



Jasmine Ramos  
Class of 2020



Maria Miranda  
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



Rocío Vasquez  
Class of 2021



Ashley Kozell  
Class of 2022



Bettina Bautista  
Class of 2022



Brkiti Bhran  
Class of 2022



Cameron Keenan  
Class of 2022



Sol Gonzales  
Class of 2022



Susana Galindo  
Class of 2022



Justin Estavillo  
Class of 2022



Crystal Triguero  
Class of 2023



Miriam Munoz Gonzales  
Class of 2023



Diana Loaiza  
Class of 2024



Isabella Sandoval  
Class of 2025



Randy Sanchez Bonilla  
Class of 2025



Leyla Alvarez  
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



Aniya Strain  
Class of 2027



Alexia Genovese  
Class of 2027



Melanie Alveno-Caro  
Class of 2027



Ira De Jesus  
Class of 2027



Camila Rodriguez-Pineda  
Class of 2027



Tahje Hutchinson  
Class of 2027



Sarah Ochoa Diaz  
Class of 2027



# Board of Directors

## 2023-2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CHAIRWOMAN: **Colleen Birch**

PRESIDENT: **Kevin Ball**

*Fontainebleau Las Vegas*

VICE-PRESIDENT: **Megan Humphreys**

*MGM Resorts International*

VICE-PRESIDENT: **Tom Gorbail**

*Sunset Station Hotel and Casino*

SECRETARY: **Marti Winer**

*Casa Bonita*

TREASURER: **Robert Chiti**

*TAO Group*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: **Melissa Arias**

*Hospitality Charitable Foundation*

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS: **Chris Alfieri**

*Hospitality Charitable Foundation*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MEMBERS

**Alyssa Mendes**

*Nobu Las Vegas*

**Amber Jung**

*Edison Interactive*

**Anthony Olheiser**

*Fontainebleau Las Vegas*

**Bruce Belcher**

*Southern Glazer's Wine, Spirits & Beer of Nevada*

**Craig Gilbert**

*Drive This! Entertainment*

**Jason Charboneau**

*Southern Glazer's Wine, Spirits & Beer of Nevada*

**Jason Wade**

*Breakthru Beverage*

**Kelley Jones**

*Hospitality Alliance*

**Ken Johnson**

*Four Queens Hotel & Casino, Binion's Gambling Hall*

**Lesley Bowman**

*Elite Golf Management*

**Marisa Martino**

*Bar-Kada Hospitality*

**Martha Morales**

*Boyd Gaming*

**Megan Archambeault**

*MGM Grand, The Signature, New York -New York Hotel, and Excalibur*

**Michael Kennedy**

*South Point Hotel, Casino, & Spa*

**Michael Scafuto**

*The M&M Group Entertainment*

**Nick Trujillo**

*Vegas Golden Knights*

**Sherri Sosa**

*MGM Resorts International*

**Travis Hackney**

*Sysco*

**Vildan Buric**

*Santa Fe Station Hotel and Casino*

## HONORARY MEMBERS

**Stowe Shoemaker**

*University of Nevada, Las Vegas*

**Sean DiCicco**

*Past Foundation President  
Invited Clubs*

**David Hoenemeyer**

*COO at Seminole Gaming*



# Impact Snapshot

## HCF Students are an Investment Worth Making

**Our mission** is to provide scholarship and mentorship from hospitality industry leaders resulting in lifetime relationships and opportunities.

**Empowered Dreams:** Through your contributions, we provided life-changing scholarships to **20 deserving students**.

**Academic Excellence:** An impressive **3.6 Average GPA** of program participants in HCF's lifetime.

This year, a remarkable **94% of participants** maintained a minimum 3.0 GPA, with only one student currently at 2.91.

**Community Service Hours:** HCF students completed over **1,000 community service hours** this year, making a meaningful impact in our community.

**Graduation Milestones:** A total of **55 students** successfully graduated from their hospitality or culinary arts programs within four years. Notably, we have risen this number to **83% of HCF students have graduated in four years** during the past decade. A remarkable contrast to the CCSD's current rate is 18%.

**Employment Success:** **78% percent** of HCF program graduates are currently employment in the hospitality industry.

**Mentorship Impact:** With your support, our board members facilitated invaluable mentorship opportunities, with **480 hours** of dedicated industry professionals mentoring and inspiring our students.

Scholarship Investment  
**\$2.3 Million**

to date on HCF hospitality scholarships.

# Special Thanks to

Affinity Gaming	Big Sur Oyster Bar	Colleen Birch	Hailey Cahill
AJ Song	Blue Ribbon Sushi	Corinne Burton	Hakkasan
Alexia Genovese	Bottiglia	Craig Gilbert	Hanks
Alexis Meruelo	Boyd Gaming	Crossroads	Hugo's
Alison Clingensmith	Brady Industries	Cultural Diversity Foundation	Humberto Trueba
Alyssa Mendes	Brady Johnson	Cynthia Kiser Murphey	Illicit Elixirs
Amanda Behnke	Breakthru Beverage	Dan Fenton	Ira De Jesus
Amber Jung	Brian Kish	Aaron Newman	Isabella Sandoval
Amy Chong	Bruce Belcher	DelMonico Steakhouse	Ivana Cvejic
Anita Thomas	Butch Lidgett	Denise Watson	Ivette Aguirre Llaguno
Aniya Strain	Byron Sampson	Diana Loaiza	Jack Langley
Anthony Olheiser	Caesars Entertainment	Dimitrije Curcic	Jaclyn Taylor
Anthony Rodriguez	Cameron Keenan	E&J Gallo	Jason Charboneau
Anuhea Hawkins	Camila Rodriguez-Pineda	Emeril Lagasse Foundation	Jason Gaboriou
Avero, LLC	Carolyn Welch	Emeril's Fishbouse	Jason Wade
Balla Italian Soul	Cashman Photo	FIJI Water	Johnson Brothers
Basilico	Chantelle Mark	First Class Vending and Coffee Service	Joni Flowers
Bazaar Meat	Chickie's and Pete's	Four Queens	Jordon Moore
Beauty & Essex	Christopher Alfieri	Gary Charmel	Joseph Donato
Benjamin Sison	Ciro Fodera	Get Fresh Sales	Kelley Jones
BetMGM	Claire Cuddihy	Greg Stenson	Ken Johnson

Kevin Ball	MGM Event Productions	Robert Keenan Winery	Sue Pinney
Kevin McCracken	MGM Resorts International	SAHARA Las Vegas	Summit Spirits & Wine
Kumi	Mia Salomon	Samantha Butler	Superfrico
Kusa Nori	Michael Kennedy	Robert Keenan Winery	Suzette Federico
Kyle Peng	Michael Scafuto	SAHARA Las Vegas	Sysco
Lenzi Woodbury	Michelle Harrison	Samantha Butler	T Bones Chophouse and Lounge
Lesley Bowman	Mitch Preston	Sambalatte	Tahje Hutchinson
Leyla Alvarez	Monica Moradkhan	Sarah Ochoa-Diaz	Tami Montalvo
Light + Wonder	Natalie Olheiser	Scott Miller	The Bruce and Barbara Lee Foundation
Maggie Hausbeck	Nick Trujillo	Sean DiCicco	The Capital Grille
Maria Gatti	Noodle Den	Shaina Graham	The Meruelo Family
Maria Miranda	Oyster Bar	Sherri Sosa	Tom Gorball
Marisa Martino	Paul Chakmak	Sonoma	Tony Cordasco
Martha Morales	Paul Lagudi	South Point Hotel, Casino, & Spa	Top of Binion's Steakhouse
Marti Winer	PepsiCo	Southern Glazer's Wine, Spirits & Beer	Travis Hackney
Matthew Marsh	Purestar	Speedway Children's Charities	Vildan Buric
Maya Komadina	Randy Sanchez Bonilla	State Restaurant Equipment	Whiskey Licker Up Saloon
Megan Archambeault	Razelle Antipuesto	Steelite	Willie Garrett
Megan Humphreys	Rob Baker	STK	Wynn Las Vegas
Melanie Alveno-Caro	Robert Chiti	Stowe Shoemaker	Zenshin
Melissa Arias	Robert Dolan		







*Thank You*



## **MGM RESORTS**

### **EVENT PRODUCTIONS**

The students and board are thrilled to express our utmost gratitude to the entire MGM Resorts Event Production team! Samantha Curry and Cameron Keenan, your visionary brilliance made our event not just possible, but absolutely sensational! Your decor and creative genius took MENUS to a whole new level of jaw-dropping WOW! We simply couldn't have pulled it off without your incredible contributions. Thank you for turning our event into an award-worthy extravaganza!





# 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.





PROUD SPONSOR OF ECF

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*Where great things happen!*





# 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.



**MGM RESORTS**  
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**BETMGM**

# *ELEVATE YOUR* **EXCITEMENT**

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FOUNDATION



**CAESARS**  
ENTERTAINMENT.

**PEOPLE  
PLANET  
PLAY.**

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

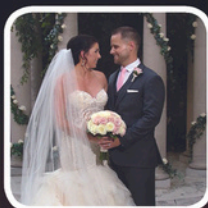


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THRILL RIDE PHOTOS



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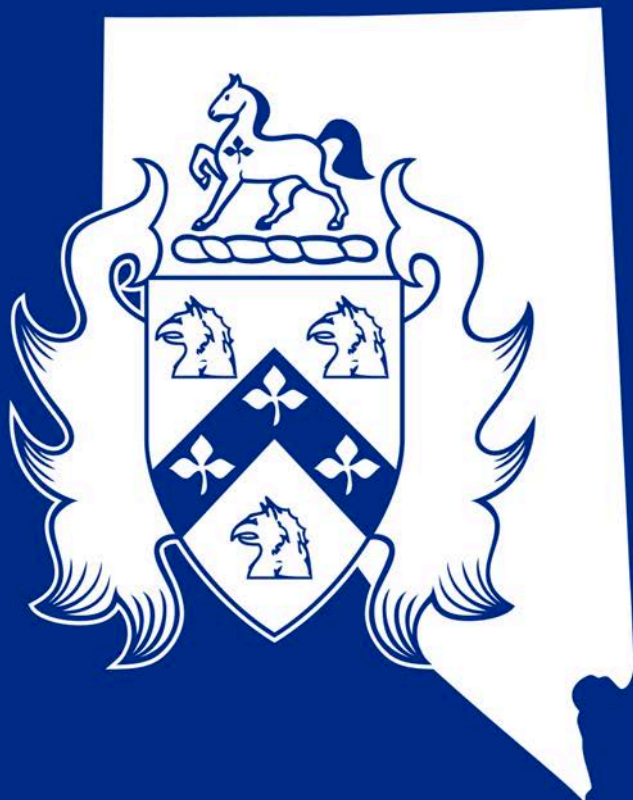
**E&J. Gallo Winery**  
is proud to support



**Epicurean Charitable  
Foundation**

and the future leaders of  
our hospitality community.

*Cheers to all scholarship recipients.  
We raise our glass to you!*



# JOHNSON BROTHERS OF NEVADA

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JOHNSON BROTHERS SALUTES  
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# BREAKTHRU

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# PROUD SPONSOR OF THE ECF MENTORSHIP MATTERS PROGRAM

SAHARA Las Vegas proudly supports the ECF Mentorship Matters Program and applauds their dedication to mentoring students in need with key industry opportunities and full scholarships.



**SAHARA**  
LAS VEGAS

2535 S Las Vegas Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89109  
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TO

Epicurean Charitable  
Foundation

LAS VEGAS

TURNING DREAMS  
INTO REALITY!

CONGRATULATIONS

CYNTHIA KISER MURPHEY

FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT



SOUTHERN GLAZER'S  
WINE, SPIRITS & BEER  
OF NEVADA



# THANK YOU TO OUR M.E.N.U.S. 2023

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## SPECIAL THANKS

