



Welcome to

# *Mentorship Matters*

Honoring  
**Sean DiCicco**

Celebrating 23 Years of Changing Lives  
Scholarship Breakfast

Tuesday, February 11th, 2025



# *Honoring*

## **Sean DiCicco**

Senior Vice President of Food and Beverage for Invited Clubs  
& Honorary HCF Board Member



Sean joined HCF in 2011, driven to impact the lives of deserving students. Rising quickly through leadership roles, he served as vice-president and later as president for two terms. Sean's contributions have been pivotal in shaping HCF into the impactful organization it is today, where he remains a key influence.

Mr. DiCicco is a distinguished graduate of the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York. He enjoys traveling the world with his wife, Audrey, and is a proud father to three beautiful daughters.



We are honored to recognize Sean DiCicco for his outstanding contributions to the hospitality industry and his unwavering commitment to fostering the next generation of hospitality professionals.



Scan to watch  
our video  
honoring Sean

# Program

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENT

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

## M.E.N.U.S. 2024 VIDEO

**Razelle Antipuesto**, *UNLV Class of '25*

## GRADUATE SPEAKER

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

**Jordan Moore**, *UNLV Class of '14*

## SPONSORSHIP APPRECIATION

**Tony Rodriguez**, *UNLV Class of '25*

**Alexia Genovese**, *UNLV Class of '26*

## SCHOLARSHIP AWARD CEREMONY

**Tom Gorball**, *Chairman of the Board*

**Michael Kennedy**, *President of the Board*

**David Cárdenas**, *Dean of UNLV Hospitality*

**Kevin R. Ball**, *Past President of the Board*

**Colleen Birch**, *Past Chairwoman*

## PRESENTATION OF HONOREE

*Introduced by* **Sarah Ochoa Diaz**, *UNLV Class of '27*

**Sean DiCicco**, *Honoree*

## SCHOLARSHIP REVEAL

**Eliana Mendoza**, *UNLV Class of '28*

## CLOSING STATEMENTS

**Melissa Arias**, *Executive Director*

# *Congratulations to*

## Our Newest Scholarship Recipients!



**Eliana Mendoza**  
UNLV/HCF Class of 2028  
Mentor: Kaitlin Molina  
Dream Job: Director of  
Events or Catering



**Isabelle Gates**  
UNLV/HCF Class of 2028  
Mentor: Megan Archambeault  
Dream Job: Event Planner/  
Event Operations



**Michael Chavez**  
UNLV/HCF Class of 2028  
Mentor: Michael Kennedy  
Dream Job: Food &  
Beverage Director,  
Restaurant Owner



**Gregory Haley**  
UNLV/HCF Class of 2028  
Mentor: Greg Van Stone  
Dream Job: Culinary Director



**Lazaro Cabrera**  
UNLV/HCF Class of 2027  
Mentor: Robert Chiti  
Dream Job: Hospitality  
Executive



**Sebastian Mondala**  
UNLV/HCF Class of 2028  
Mentor: Vildan Buric  
Dream Job: Food &  
Beverage Business Owner



**Fatima Garcia Avelar**  
UNLV/HCF Class of 2028  
Mentor: Kevin Ball  
Dream Job: Hospitality  
Sustainability Consultant

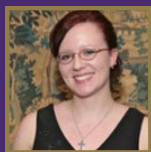


# *Past Honorees*

- 2023 - Cynthia Kiser Murphey**, General Manager for Palms Casino Resort
- 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



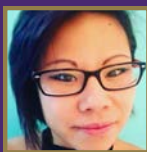
# 23 Years of Changing Lives



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 Selligson  
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



Jasmyln 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



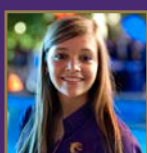
Karen Nava  
Class of 2016



Andrea Rocca-Capane  
Class of 2017



Daniela Sanchez  
Class of 2017



Candace Kozell  
Class of 2018



Melanie Saucedo  
Class of 2018



Anna Tymoshevskya  
Class of 2019



Benjamin Sison  
Class of 2019



**Mia Salomon**  
Class of 2019



**Geovanni 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



**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



**Sol Gonzales**  
Class of 2022



**Susana Galindo**  
Class of 2022



**Jasin Estavillo**  
Class of 2022



**Crystal Triguero**  
Class of 2023



**Miriam Munoz Gonzales**  
Class of 2023



**Diana Loalza**  
Class of 2024



**Leyla Alvarez**  
Class of 2024



**Ivette Aguirre Llaguno**  
Class of 2024



**Randy Sanchez Bonilla**  
Class of 2024



**Isabella Sandoval**  
Class of 2025



**Claire Cuddihy**  
Class of 2025



**Anthony Rodriguez**  
Class of 2025



**Kyle Peng**  
Class of 2025



**Razelle Antipuesto**  
Class of 2025



**Aniya Strain**  
Class of 2026



**Alexia Genovese**  
Class of 2026



**Melanie Caro**  
Class of 2026



**Ira De Jesus**  
Class of 2026



**Camila Rodriguez-Pineda**  
Class of 2027



**Tahje Hutchinson**  
Class of 2027



**Sarah Ochoa Diaz**  
Class of 2027



**Lazaro Cabrera**  
Class of 2027



**Eliana Mendoza**  
Class of 2028



**Isabelle Gates**  
Class of 2028



**Michael Chavez**  
Class of 2028



**Gregory Haley**  
Class of 2028



**Sebastian Mondala**  
Class of 2028



**Fatima Garcia Avelar**  
Class of 2028





# Board of Directors

## 2024-2025 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**CHAIRMAN: Tom Gorbali**

*Sunset Station Hotel and Casino*

**PRESIDENT: Michael Kennedy**

*South Point Hotel, Casino, & Spa*

**VICE-PRESIDENT: Megan Archambeault**

*MGM Grand, New York New York, Excalibur  
& The Signature*

**VICE-PRESIDENT: Anthony Olheiser**

*Fontainebleau Las Vegas*

**SECRETARY: Alyssa Mendes**

*Nobu Hotel*

**TREASURER: Kevin R. Ball**

*Fontainebleau Las Vegas*

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Melissa Arias**

*Hospitality Charitable Foundation*

**DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS: Chris Alfieri**

*Hospitality Charitable Foundation*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MEMBERS

**Amber Jung**

*Edison Interactive*

**Bruce Belcher**

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

**Bryan Fyler**

*The Venetian*

**Colleen Birch**

*Hospitality Executive*

**Debby Felker**

*Buzz Entertainment*

**Greg Van Stone**

*Palms Las Vegas*

**James McBride**

*MGM Grand, New York New York, Excalibur, &  
The Signature*

**Jason Charboneau**

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

**Jason Wade**

*Breakthru Beverage*

**Kaitlin Molina**

*Caesars Entertainment*

**Ken Johnson**

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

**Maggie Jackson**

*Freeman*

**Lesley Bowman**

*Elite Golf Management*

**Marti Winer**

*Casa Bonita Denver*

**Nick Trujillo**

*Vegas Golden Knights*

**Robert Chiti**

*Tao Group*

**Sherri Sosa**

*MGM Resorts International*

**Travis Hackney**

*Sysco*

**Vildan Buric**

*Resorts World Las Vegas*

## HONORARY MEMBERS

**Stowe Shoemaker**

*University of Nevada, Las Vegas*

**Sean DiCicco**

*Past Foundation President  
Invited Clubs*

**Martha Morales**

*Boyd Gaming, Alumni*



# *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 **25 deserving students in 2024.**

**Academic Excellence:** HCF students boast an impressive **3.63 Average Collegiate GPA.**

This year, a remarkable **100% of participants** maintained a minimum 3.0 GPA.

**Community Service Hours:** HCF students completed over **1,500 community service hours** this year, making a meaningful impact in our community.

**Graduation Milestones:** A total of **59 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 employed 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**  
**\$2.4 Million**

**to date on HCF hospitality scholarships.**

# Special Thanks to

Adrianna Loy	Chantelle Mark	Fatima Garcia Avelar
Alexia Genovese	Chris Shannon	Fontainebleau
Alexis Meruelo	Claire Cuddihy	Frank Family Vineyard
Alison Clingensmith	Cliff Atkinson	Freeman
Alyssa Charboneau	Cultural Diversity Foundation	Garrett Bosch
Andrea Ahmed	Dan Fenton	George Monsam
Andrew Woodman	Darren Student	Green Valley Ranch Resort & Spa
Anita Thomas	Dean Cárdenas	Greg Stenson
Aniya Strain	Debby Jacobs Felker	Gregory Haley
Anna Schmid	Deborah Johnson	Holly Sgro
Anthony Rodriguez	Debra Borders	Humberto Trueba
Ashley Hinsen	Denise Watson	Informa
Atomic Golf	Dimitrije Curcic	Invite
Bernardus	Eliana Mendoza	Isabella Sandoval
Brady Johnson	Eric Cardinali	Isabelle Gates
Bret Bananto	Fatima Garcia Avelar	J. Vineyards
Brian Kish	Fontainebleau	Jack Langley
Bruce & Barbara Lee	Frank Family Vineyard	James McBride
Bryan Fyler	Cliff Atkinson	Jason Noonan
Byron Sampson	Cultural Diversity Foundation	John Bergdoll
Cameron Keenan	Dan Fenton	Joni Flowers
Camila Rodriguez-Pineda	Darren Student	Joseph Donato
Canyon Gate Country Club	Dean Cárdenas	JW Marriott Las Vegas Resort & Spa
Canyon Ranch	Deborah Johnson	Kassi Beach House
Capital Grill	Debra Borders	Kendall-Jackson
Carrie Dixon-Davenport	Denise Watson	Kevin McCracken
Casa Bonita	Dimitrije Curcic	Kiely Campbell
Casablanca Hotel Resort & Casino	Eliana Mendoza	
Celena Haas-Stacey	Eric Cardinali	

Kumi	Peter Mouskondis	Toni Newson
Kyle Cardin	Pioneer Saloon	Tony Cordasco
Kyle Peng	Razelle Antipuesto	Top Golf
Las Vegas Lights	Red Rock Hotel and Casino	Total Wine & More
Lazaro Cabrera	Rio	Travis Brady
Lenzi Woodbury	Robert Dolan	Vacation Village Resort
Lisa Hanson	Robert Keenan Winery	Venetian
Lorraine Kalayanaprapruit	Robin Cheng	Victor Chang
Louis Martini	Rodney Strong	Viktor Marocq
M Resort Spa & Casino	Ryan Miller	Virgin Hotels
MACEOO	Samantha Cambridge	Wanda Luna
Machine Gun Vegas	Samantha Curry	Wayne Woodman
Maggie Hausbeck	Sandra Hinklebein	Westgate
Maria Gatti	Sarah Ochoa-Diaz	Willie Garrett
Marissa Aguilar	Scott Miller	Wynn Las Vegas
Marjorie Alquizalas	Scouting America	Youth Charities of Southern Nevada
Matt Stout	Sebastian Mondala	
Matthew Marsh	Shaina Graham	
Matthew Vandergrift	Spartan Arms	
Melanie Alveno-Caro	SpeedVegas	
Michael Chavez	Spiegelworld	
Michelle Harrison	Stacey Taylor	
Monica Moradkhan	Stephanie Lasao	
Natalie Olheiser	Summit Spirits & Wine	
Nicholas & Co.	Superfrico	
Nicole Mouskondis	Suzette Federico	
Ocean Prime	Sysco	
Palms	Tahje Hutchinson	
Paul Chakmak	Tami Montalvo	
Paul Hobson	Tim Haughnberry	
Paul Lagudi	Toni Chaltiel	









# WINE OF THE MONTH PROGRAM

Great Wine. Great Value. Great Cause.

## How Restaurants Can Participate:

1. **Partner** with a distributor to select a red and white wine.
2. **Set** a price point that fits your menu and clientele.
3. **Promote** the wine with special menu notes and signage
4. **Track** sales and leave the donation process to the distributor.
5. **Celebrate** success by sharing your impact with customers!



For **every** featured bottle sold, **\$1 is donated to HCF.**

**Guests** enjoy amazing wine, **venues** delight their customers, **and distributors** share incredible wines.

**Strengthen your brand** as a community partner.



Hospitality Charitable  
Foundation

For more information contact Michael Kennedy at: [kennedym@southpointcasino.com](mailto:kennedym@southpointcasino.com)



Supporting the next generation of  
Hospitality Leaders



**PROUD SPONSOR OF HCF**



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



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GOURMET & SHOWROOMS



SPECIAL EVENTS



CASHMAN CRYSTAL



THRILL RIDE PHOTOS

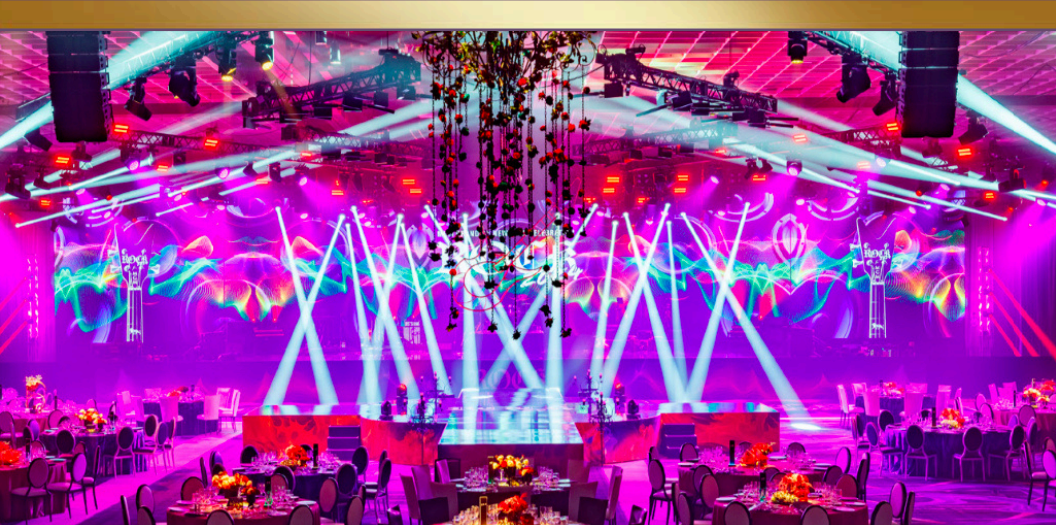


GREEN SCREEN EFFECT PHOTOS



PRO PHOTO LAB





MGM Resorts Event Productions is a proud supporter  
of the Hospitality Charitable Foundation.



**MGM RESORTS**

# 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 HCF Mentorship Matters Program.



**MGM RESORTS**  
INTERNATIONAL®



# 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.





# GALLO<sup>®</sup>

is proud to support



## Hospitality 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  
HOSPITALITY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION





# BREAKTHRU

BEVERAGE GROUP



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





Hospitality Charitable  
Foundation

The future belongs to those who  
believe in the beauty of Dreams.

We raise our glass to  
**SEAN DICICCO**  
for helping make  
Dreams into Reality.



FROM ALL YOUR FRIENDS AT



**SOUTHERN GLAZER'S  
WINE, SPIRITS & BEER  
OF NEVADA**

# PROUD SPONSOR OF THE HCF MENTORSHIP MATTERS PROGRAM

SAHARA Las Vegas proudly supports the HCF 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  
702.761.7000 | [saharalasvegas.com](http://saharalasvegas.com)



# THANK YOU TO OUR M.E.N.U.S. 2024

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## BRONZE SPONSORS



## SPECIAL THANKS

