



NEWS RELEASE

# Eight Aspiring Culinary Students Join the US Foods Scholars Program

2019-11-07

Since launching its scholarship program in 2017, US Foods has provided scholarships to 30 deserving students pursuing an education in the culinary arts

ROSEMONT, Ill. – Nov. 7, 2019 – US Foods Holding Corp. (NYSE: USFD) announced today the newest class of culinary students receiving US Foods Scholars awards. Eight students from cities across the country were each awarded a scholarship of up to \$20,000 to help them pursue an education in the culinary arts and enter the restaurant industry. The new scholars will also receive learning and development opportunities with US Foods culinary professionals throughout the school year.

The US Foods Scholars program was developed to help tackle the ongoing talent shortage facing the restaurant industry by providing financial support and culinary training opportunities for deserving students who require assistance to complete the next step of their culinary journey.

“It’s been an honor to watch the program expand with ambitious and talented students,” said Debra Ceffalio, vice president of corporate communications, US Foods. “We know finding highly skilled talent is a challenge for independent restaurant operators, and that is why our support of the next generation of culinary talent is so important to our organization and our customers. US Foods Scholars are well-poised for success in the industry, and we are excited to support their achievements.”

The eight recipients are:

- **Christian Oliver**, a first-year culinary arts and entrepreneurship student at Austin Community College in



Austin, Texas.

Hometown: Austin, Texas

- **Destiny Barfield**, a first-year culinary arts student at the Art Institute of Atlanta in Atlanta, Ga.  
Hometown: Atlanta, Ga.
- **Frauntashia Perry**, a first-year baking and pastry arts student at the Art Institute of Atlanta in Atlanta, Ga.  
Hometown: Carson, Calif.
- **Grace Aguilar**, a first-year culinary and pastry arts student at Austin Community College in Austin, Texas.  
Hometown: New Orleans, La.
- **Hannah Smith**, a first-year baking, pastry and culinary arts student at Wake Technical Community College in Raleigh, N.C.  
Hometown: Bear Creek, N.C.
- **Jessie Burns**, a first-year baking, pastry, and hospitality and food service management student at Johnson & Wales University in Denver, Colo.  
Hometown: Pueblo West, Colo.
- **Karla Jimenez**, a first-year culinary arts student at Wake Technical Community College in Raleigh, N.C.  
Hometown: Garner, N.C.
- **Nicolas Eberspacher**, a first-year culinary arts, foodservice, and food and beverage management student at Johnson & Wales University in Denver, Colo.  
Hometown: Fort Collins, Colo.

“It is such an honor, and I’m extremely thankful to be part of the US Foods Scholars program,” said Hannah Smith, 2019 US Foods Scholar and culinary student at Wake Technical Community College. “I had no idea that following a passion of mine could lead me to where it has today. This opportunity can open so many doors and will allow me to continue pursuing degrees in culinary, baking and pastry arts.”

All US Foods scholarship recipients are selected through an application process. Each applicant is evaluated based on several criteria, including academic performance, financial need and a personal essay. US Foods is proud to partner with two organizations, Careers through Culinary Arts Program and the American Culinary Federation, to help facilitate applications and select scholarship recipients.

Learn more about the program and the newest recipients [here](#).

## About US Foods

US Foods is one of America's great food companies and a leading foodservice distributor, partnering with approximately 300,000 restaurants and foodservice operators to help their businesses succeed. With 28,000 associates and more than 70 locations, US Foods provides its customers with a broad and innovative food offering and a comprehensive suite of e-commerce, technology and business solutions. US Foods is headquartered in Rosemont, Ill., and generates more than \$28 billion in annual revenue. Visit [usfoods.com](https://www.usfoods.com) to learn more.

#### **About Careers through Culinary Arts Program (C-CAP)**

Careers through Culinary Arts Program is a national nonprofit that educates and guides underserved high school students toward a bright future. C-CAP prepares students for the workplace through chef mentoring, field trips, work experience and job training, scholarships and college and career advising. Founded in 1990 by culinary educator Richard Grausman, C-CAP impacts over 17,000 students each year. Countless C-CAP alumni work throughout the country and are guiding the future leaders of the culinary and hospitality industry. Visit [ccapinc.org](https://www.ccapinc.org) to learn more.

#### **About the American Culinary Federation (ACF)**

The American Culinary Federation, established in 1929, is the standard of excellence for chefs in North America. With more than 15,500 members spanning more than 170 chapters nationwide, ACF is the leading culinary association offering educational resources, training, apprenticeship, programmatic accreditation and a comprehensive certification program. For more information, visit [www.acfchefs.org](https://www.acfchefs.org).

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Source: US Foods