

University Dining Services  
Press Release – Campus and Local  
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### ***2008 NACUFS Continental Region Culinary Challenge***

University Dining Services (UDS) is proud to announce that UDS Catering Production Chef Timothy Hodges was awarded a silver medal at the 2008 NACUFS Continental Regional Culinary Challenge. Chef Hodges prepared a Blackened Striped Sea Bass accompanied by Carrot Sriracha Israeli Couscous, Roasted Sweet Peppers, Red Onion, Jicama, and Meyer Lemon Aioli, winning himself a third place finish.

NACUFS' Culinary Challenge is in its 8<sup>th</sup> year and is sanctioned by the American Culinary Federation (ACF). This year's regional challenge, held April 1<sup>st</sup> at North Idaho College in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, provided a venue for outstanding college and university culinarians to showcase their talents, techniques, and regional food styles.

Each contestant had a total of 75 minutes to produce an original hot entrée using striped bass, with side dishes and sauce. Three judges, approved by the ACF, were present to judge the competition. Judging criteria included taste of the finished product, the demonstration of cooking skills and culinary techniques, and the practice of organizational skills, including sanitation principles.

Hodges practiced extensively after work hours to prepare for the competition. He scored 32 points out of a possible 40 points, qualifying him for an ACF Silver Medal. He says, "Getting a silver medal in my first competition was awesome, but it definitely raises the bar for next year."

UDS Executive Chef Tom Siegel, says, "It's unusual to win a silver medal in your first competition. It takes courage to compete. Imagine being under the microscope having your every move being scrutinized by 200 people and a panel of ACF seasoned judges. It can be nerve racking. I'm very proud of him."

**Awards are based on total points:**

ACF Gold – (36 – 40 points)

ACF Silver (32 - 35.99 points)

ACF Bronze (28 31.99 points)

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