



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Stacy Williams, CFRE  
Development Director  
Office: 863-683-6504 x136  
Email: [stacy@achievementacademy.com](mailto:stacy@achievementacademy.com)

## **Achievement Academy to hold third annual Top Chef of Polk County event**

**LAKELAND, FL (February 17, 2017)** Achievement Academy's third annual Top Chef of Polk County event will take place on Monday, April 10, at the Lakeland Center. Last year's event raised more than \$50,000 for programs and therapies for the children of Achievement Academy.

Top Chef of Polk County is a multi-course fine-dining experience that places the spotlight on the area's leading chefs while raising funds for programs and therapies for the children of Achievement Academy. Florida Commissioner of Agriculture, Adam Putnam, will serve as our Honorary Chair this year. He will be with us throughout the reception hour to meet and greet guests as well as give the opening remarks.

As many as 12 chefs will create and prepare, tableside, their own menu with accompanying wine or libation that complements the flavors of each course. Guests are invited to arrive prior to the dinner where they can enjoy cocktails from the cash bar, live music, and view and judge the unique table décor at each dining station.

An expert panel of culinary-trained chefs will judge each chef on their creations based on multiple criteria to award the title of "Top Chef of Polk County 2017." They will also present awards for best in Appetizer, Entrée and Dessert.

A second panel of judges from local media markets will judge each chef on their creations based on multiple criteria to award the title of "Media's Choice — Top Chef 2017." They will also present "Media's Choice" awards for best in Appetizer, Entrée and Dessert.

Dinner guests will rate each dining station to award the title of "Top Table Décor." The chef that raises the most funds for Achievement Academy through their donated auction item/s will earn the "Top Philanthropic Chef" award.

The Achievement Academy has chef opportunities still available. We are proud to announce the chefs who have already confirmed their participation in this year's event:

Chef Tina Calhoon, Fresco's Bakery & Bistro

Chef Jeff Conley, Publix Aprons Cooking School

Chef Wayne Haggard, Spectra

Chef Lyn Hayes, Got Candy & More

Chef James Lazaros, La Flor de Espana

Chef Terrie Lobb, Terrie Lobb Catering

SottoTerra Restaurant, Streamsong Resort (chef to be announced)

Chef Patrick Schaefer, Patio850

Chef Jose Vicente, Brasa Latina

Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam will serve as Honorary Chairman for the "Top Chef of Polk County" event. The Presenting Sponsor is Publix Super Markets Charities; the Sous Chef Sponsors include Hillcrest Partners Limited Partnership, Steve and Janice Jones and State Senator Kelli Stargel; the Saucier Chef Sponsors include Express Employment Professionals, Guynn Family Produce, The Libertore Fund for Children, Inc. and Two Men and a Truck.

Cocktail hour will be from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., and the first course will be served at 6:30 p.m. There will be a live auction which takes place throughout the evening. Individual tickets and sponsorships are available. Seating is limited. To reserve your seats or obtain more information, visit the Achievement Academy website, <http://achievementacademy.com/top-chef-of-polk-county-2017/>, or call (863) 683-6504.

*The Achievement Academy serves children from birth through age five with various developmental delays and disabilities. The Achievement Academy offers two programs, each provided at no cost to the child or family. The first program is a **Charter School** that offers specialized instruction by certified teachers; small class sizes; individual speech, occupational and physical therapies; and assistive technologies that enable each student to reach his or her full potential at one of the Achievement Academy's three campus locations (Lakeland, Winter Haven and Bartow). The second is a "**Birth to Three Program**" that provides early intervention services to infants and toddlers who are "at-risk" for developmental delays and/or have been identified with a specific delay. Professional Early Interventionists serve these children and their families. More than half of the Birth to Three Program's budget is funded by a generous allocation from the United Way of Central Florida.*

###