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The Latino Culinary Institute and Association Launches Chispa Awards to  
Recognize Latinos in the Culinary Industry

Dallas-Fort Worth — February 16, 2024 — Latino Culinary Institute and Association, a growing leader in promoting professional development for Latinos in the culinary field, is proud to announce the launch of its new initiative aimed at recognizing the staff that powers the Restaurant Industry in North Texas.

The Chispa Awards will invite restaurant goers throughout North Texas to nominate Latino staff from their favorite eateries **between February 22 and April 15**. The program will launch on National Margarita Day. Voting for the finalists will take place **between May 1-15** and awards will be presented in June.

The initiative represents a significant milestone for LCIA and its ability to support Latino restaurant workers, and it underscores its commitment to attracting Latinos into the culinary, food services, and beverage fields.

"The whole idea of Chispa Awards came to me, because when you peak into any kitchen, you will see our *gente* chopping, slicing and cooking every type of food from around the world," said Lydia Gonzalez, chef and founder of LCIA. "We have so much talent in our community and they deserve to be recognized as the fire and soul of hospitality."

Restaurant goers can vote on categories such as best hostess, bartender, sous chef, and kitchen manager. A list of all of the categories are available online.

Restaurant owners interested in participating can visit the Chispa Awards page ([www.chispasawards.com](http://www.chispasawards.com)) to download a promotional flyer with a QR code.

For media inquiries or additional information, contact Lydia Gonzalez at [chef@lydiagonzalez.com](mailto:chef@lydiagonzalez.com).

**The Latino Culinary Institute and Association (LCIA)** is a member-driven non-profit organization promoting professional development to attract Latinos into the US culinary, food services, and beverage fields. Founded in 2020, LCIA offers opportunities to qualified new start-ups and existing small food businesses that can significantly benefit from affordable access to a licensed commercial kitchen space, technical assistance, and training in food industry techniques and business operations. Learn more at [www.latinoculinary.org](http://www.latinoculinary.org).