

COLUMBIA AREA CAREER CENTER

Columbia Public Schools

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEADLINE: Bartolacci wins the SkillsUSA Culinary Arts national competition

COLUMBIA, MISSOURI, June 27, 2016 — Giovanni Bartolacci, 2016 Columbia Public School’s Rock Bridge High School graduate, placed first in the SkillsUSA Culinary Arts national competition for secondary students. He trained through the Columbia Area Career Center’s Culinary Arts Program. The competition culminated at the 52nd Annual SkillsUSA awards ceremony Fri., June 24, 2016 in Freedom Hall at the Kentucky Exposition Center located in Louisville, KY.

Katie Frink, CACC culinary arts instructor reflects, “I am extremely proud of Giovanni. When he entered the program, I never would have believed he would be where he is now. His success shows how much the program has grown and he will benefit immensely from the commitment he made to it. I am excited to watch him continue his education and begin his career—you will not find a more thoughtful, dedicated, determined or passionate young man or cook.”

Bartolacci has been in the program for three years and competed through SkillsUSA for the last two years through the Culinary Arts Program at Columbia Area Career Center. “The success of the program wouldn’t be possible without the support of the community,” states CACC culinary arts instructor, Brook Harlan. “Since the program started it has grown tremendously, it is hard to believe that a CACC culinary student has won the national culinary contest for the past five years.”

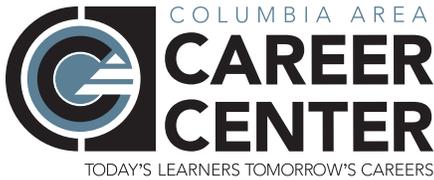
Bartolacci is the sixth Missouri student to win the culinary arts SkillsUSA national competition. State contests began in March and the national contest was held last week in Louisville. Students from most of the 50 states, as well as Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, participated.

Bartolacci’s effort will be rewarded with a full four-year scholarship to many of the country’s top culinary



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schools. Bartolacci has chosen to continue his education at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY. The CIA is the oldest and largest culinary school in the United States, with several campuses located across the country.

“Prior to my classes at CACC I did not have an interest in cooking. It is now amazing to look back and see that in three years I have worked to learn as much as possible to get me to this point. I am very excited to start the road to my life-long education at the Culinary Institute of America,” said Bartolacci. “I am grateful for all of the support of the chefs and the Columbia community.”

Giovanni Bartolacci is the fifth student in a row from CACC to win the Culinary Arts National SkillsUSA Championship. This also marks the 14th straight year that CACC has had a state SkillsUSA champion for Missouri competing in the national contest for Culinary Arts.

CACC is a part of the Columbia Public School District and serves the community by providing the following education programs to a variety of ages including, but not limited to: career and technical education, personal enrichment, literacy advancement, workforce development and summer camps. For more information, visit www.career-center.org.

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[Photo Attached: Giovanni Bartolacci, 2016 National SkillsUSA Culinary Arts Champion]



As a district accredited with distinction by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Columbia Public Schools is a reflection of the community. The vision is to be the best school district in the state, and the mission is to provide an excellent education for all students—from preschool to adult career education.



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