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LOS OLIVOS CHEF WINS PASTRY CHEF OF THE YEAR

Fiona Espana, a chef at Los Olivos, won 2017 Pastry Chef of the Year presented by the American Culinary Federation Chefs De Cuisine Association of California on Saturday, December 30 at the Lakeside Golf Club in Burbank.

Espana competed against chefs with over 30 years of experience in the culinary industry. "This is a big achievement being that I am a woman under 35 working in a male-dominated industry," says Espana. "It is an honor to be able to represent Cal Poly Pomona as well as my Hispanic culture."

Espana was nominated by a colleague who took note of her skills and dedication to her craft.

"Receiving this award has given me a push to encourage younger generations to reach their goals," says Espana.

The yearlong process to select a winner for Pastry Chef of the Year is given to a well-rounded chef both in and out of the kitchen. In this case, Espana's charity work, such as baking 100 pies on Thanksgiving to give back to the community was considered.

Espana graduated from Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts and has worked in the industry for ten years. She has been an employee at Los Olivos since June 2017.

"Los Olivos is committed to hiring the best in the restaurant industry, and Fiona is a great example," says Aaron Neilson, director of dining services. "We are honored to have her as a part of our team."

Cal Poly Pomona Foundation, Inc. is a Section 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization that operates as a recognized auxiliary of the California State University.

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