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## Colorado Restaurant Association Announces 2021 Industry Spotlight Award Winners

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Denver, CO – **The Colorado Restaurant Association (CRA)** is pleased to announce the winners of its annual Industry Spotlight Awards, who will be recognized at a ceremony taking place on **Wednesday, November 3, 2021, at the Studio Loft at the Denver Performing Arts Complex** (980 14th Street), beginning at 6 p.m.

The CRA's Industry Spotlight Awards is the only awards program for Colorado's hospitality community that celebrates contributions at all levels of the industry, from back-of-house employees and bartenders to managers and chefs. Awards are given to honor individuals and hospitality partners who serve as outstanding mentors and allies for the industry, contributing to the community in myriad ways and pushing the Colorado dining scene to *new heights*.

### 2021 SIGNATURE DISH AWARDS

- Outstanding Regional Professional: **Matthew Vawter, Rootstalk (Breckenridge)**
- Exceptional Newcomer: **Raquela Rose, Elita Specialty Market & Kitchen (Aurora)**
- Outstanding Philanthropists: **John Hinman, CHOW (Broomfield); Blaine Bailey, In the Weeds (Durango)**
- Outstanding Media Professionals: **Reporting teams at Channel 2 (KWGN) and FOX31 (KDVR) (Denver)**
- Outstanding Allied Partner: **Seattle Fish Co. & Gourmet Provisions (Denver)**

### 2021 STARS OF THE INDUSTRY AWARDS

*Given to employees in the hospitality industry who have demonstrated professionalism in performing their jobs and have contributed to the positive image of the foodservice industry in Colorado.*

- MANAGERS OF THE YEAR: **Michelle Carrica, The Goods Route 40 Café (Denver); Patrick Dizon, Comida at Stanley Marketplace (Aurora); Julie Masciangelo, Il Posto (Denver); Ryan Moffitt, Culver's (Thornton and Colorado Springs)**
- FOH EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR: **Jeremy Schwartz, Frasca Food and Wine (Boulder)**
- BOH EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR: **Kathryn "KK" Varekvissier, Rupert's at the Edge (Edgewater)**
- BARTENDER OF THE YEAR: **Adam Campbell, Bistro Vendôme (Denver)**
- CHEF OF THE YEAR: **David Cuntz, The Roost (Durango)**
- LEGACY EMPLOYEES: **Shasta Kibe, Bastien's Restaurant (Denver); Vera Kindl, Gabriel's at the Old House (Sedalia); Fausto Vasquez, Rioja (Denver)**

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

- Sonia Riggs, Colorado Restaurant Association

**SUSTAINABILITY & INNOVATION AWARD**, presented by WoodRiver Energy

- Woody's Wood-Fired Pizza (Golden)

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**About the Colorado Restaurant Association**

The Colorado Restaurant Association (CRA) is dedicated to the enhancement and success of Colorado's foodservice industry. Founded in 1933, the CRA is the leading trade organization for the state's dynamic restaurant scene. The CRA represents, educates, and promotes a \$14 billion industry comprised of more than 12,000 eating and drinking establishments and 270,000 workers. [corerestaurant.org](http://corerestaurant.org).