



Press Contact:
Denise Mickelsen,
Communication Director
dmickelsen@corestaurant.org
646-373-5005 (cell)

Colorado Restaurant Association Announces Inaugural HOSPYS Award Honorees, plus 2024 Colorado Foodservice Hall of Fame Inductees FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – November 7, 2024

Denver, CO – **The Colorado Restaurant Association** (CRA) is pleased to announce the 2024 class of Colorado Restaurant Association Hospitality Awards (HOSPYS) honorees, who were announced and celebrated last night at the inaugural HOSPYS Awards Gala at the Seawell Ballroom at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Denver.

The HOSPYS continues in the tradition of the CRA's historic Industry Spotlight Awards, celebrating the exceptional talent and accomplishments of Colorado's restaurant and hospitality community, at all levels of the industry.

During the 2024 HOSPYS Awards Gala, which opened with remarks from Colorado Governor Jared Polis and was led by emcee and award-winning author Adrian Miller, the CRA honored hospitality professionals and businesses across 14 award categories.

The 2024 HOSPYS Award honorees are:

- Front-of-House Employee of the Year: **Jenne Harris, Maître d', Stone Cellar Bistro** (Arvada)
- Back-of-House Employee of the Year: **Ricardo Tyrell, Line Cook, Salt & Lime** (Steamboat Springs)
- Bartender of the Year: **Keith Webber, Mountain Standard** (Vail)
- Manager of the Year: **Angelina Allen, Assistant General Manager, 626 on Rood** (Grand Junction)
- Food Truck of the Year: **Pali Thai** (Palisade)
- Operator of the Year: **Chris Schmidt, Craftsman Brew Co., Bird Craft, and Il Mago** (Edwards, Frisco)
- Newcomer Restaurant of the Year: **Sắp Sủ** (Denver)
- Pastry Chef/Baker of the Year: **Carolyn Nugent and Alen Ramos, Poulette Bakeshop** (Parker)
- Chef of the Year: **Penelope Wong, Yuan Wonton** (Denver)
- Restaurant of the Year: **Annette** (Aurora)
- Legacy Employee of the Year: **Miranda McFarlan-Garcia, Richard Sandoval Hospitality** (Denver, Snowmass)
- Community Partner of the Year: **US Foods** (Centennial)
- Philanthropists of the Year: **Jessica and Richard Fierro, Atrevida Beer Co.** (Colorado Springs)
- Richard P. Ayers Award for Distinguished Service: **Catherine Cooney, Cooney Consulting and Recruiting** (Denver)

"We are proud to have so many incredible hospitality professionals and outstanding restaurants in Colorado, and it's our pleasure to shine a light on them through this new awards program," says Sonia Riggs, CRA President and CEO. "The HOSPYS Awards is already growing into a unifying, uplifting force for our community, which represents more than 10% of Colorado's workforce, and we're excited to see it grow as our industry does in the years to come."

Members of the public submitted online HOSPY nominations beginning in July, and in late September, a nominating committee made up of statewide media and industry professionals selected finalists and awardees. The public submitted more than 4,200 votes across 10 awards categories in October, and the full roster of 2024 HOSPY Award honorees were selected based on those public votes and those of the awards committee. You can learn more at corerestaurant.org/co-hospy-awards.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Also of note, on October 22, 2024, at the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, the CRA was thrilled to induct four local hospitality professionals into the Colorado Foodservice Hall of Fame, which was established in 1978 to honor individuals who have served as an inspiration and example through their long careers in service and significant contributions to the local restaurant industry.

The 2024 inductees are:

- **Michael Coughlin**, of 240 Union in Lakewood
- **Lari Goode & Mark Fischer**, of Six 89 and Phat Thai in Carbondale and The Pullman in Glenwood Springs
- **Chad Scothorn**, of Cosmopolitan in Telluride

Please reach out for more information about any of the honorees listed above and/or for photos of both events.

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About the Colorado Restaurant Association

The Colorado Restaurant Association (CRA) is the champion for our state's restaurant and hospitality community. Founded in 1933, the CRA protects, promotes, and serves an \$18+ billion industry comprised of more than 13,000 eating and drinking establishments and more than 303,000 workers, representing 11% of the state's workforce.