

Senate Resolution No. 2039

BY: Senator OBERACKER

CONGRATULATING the SUNY Delhi Hot Food Teams for consecutive championship success and continued excellence in American Culinary Federation competition

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to commend rare accomplishments in competition, paying special recognition to those who pursue such excellence in the course of their academic careers; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to recognize the SUNY Delhi Hot Food Teams for their exceptional achievements during the 2025 and 2026 American Culinary Federation (ACF) competition seasons; and

WHEREAS, Since the early 2000s, SUNY Delhi students have proudly participated in American Culinary Federation Student Team competitions; over the years, these students have competed against top culinary institutions across New York State and the nation, consistently demonstrating the skill, discipline, professionalism, and creativity that define SUNY Delhi's culinary programs; and

WHEREAS, After claiming the Northeast Regional Championship, the 2025 SUNY Delhi Hot Food Team advanced to compete against regional champions from across the country at the ACF National Competition held in Las Vegas, Nevada; and

WHEREAS, Since 1992, the American Culinary Federation Student Competition has served to develop young professionals, raising the standards of culinary excellence and professionalism through rigorous competition that challenges students to apply classroom learning at the highest level; and

WHEREAS, In a remarkable showcase of culinary skill, creativity, and composure under pressure, the 2025 SUNY Delhi Hot Food Team-Brennan Spencer, Sarthak Thapa, Moses Rojas, Matthew Caliendo, and Derik Cole, with apprentices Jahnasia Sutton and Joseph Kariuki, and coaches Chef Victor Sommo and Chef Sean Pehrsson-executed a four course menu titled "Journey through the Catskill Mountains"; and

WHEREAS, This outstanding team highlighted locally sourced produce, dairy, fish, and lamb, impressing judges with advanced techniques, balanced flavors, refined presentation, impeccable timing, cleanliness, and professionalism, earning a near perfect gold medal score of 97 and the designation of Student Team of the Year at the 2025 American Culinary Federation National Competition; and

WHEREAS, Building upon this legacy of excellence, the 2026 SUNY Delhi Hot Food Team captured the program's third consecutive Northeast Regional Championship, earning the opportunity to advance to the

American Culinary Federation National Championships in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and to defend SUNY Delhi's national title; and

WHEREAS, The 2026 SUNY Delhi Hot Food Team is comprised of Captain Kevin Sorto, Kevin Christy, Nicholas McGovern, Lauren Stevens, and Julian Grant, and is led by coaches Chef Victor Sommo and Chef Sean Pehrsson, whose continued leadership has been instrumental in sustaining the program's competitive success; and

WHEREAS, With a distinguished history that includes multiple Northeast Regional Championships and National Championships in 2010, 2012, and 2025, the SUNY Delhi Hot Food Teams exemplify the highest standards of culinary education, teamwork, and professionalism, serving as ambassadors for the college and the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, It is with great pleasure that this Legislative Body acknowledges both teams for their individual and collective accomplishments, their contributions to local and State history, and their vital role in advancing the culinary arts, confidently anticipating their continued success; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate the SUNY Delhi Hot Food Teams for their consecutive championship success and continued excellence in American Culinary Federation competition; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the members, apprentices, and coaches of the SUNY Delhi Hot Food Teams.