



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

REL senior wins Best Teen Chef competition

Robert E. Lee High School senior Randi Richards sliced, diced and sautéed her way to the top to win the title of Best Teen Chef 2010 for all of Houston.

She beat out 15 other competitors and won first place - \$5,000 scholarship to The International Culinary School at The Art Institute of Houston and a chance to compete at the national competition.

"I'm excited to represent the city of Houston in the national Best Teen Chef competition," said Richards.

The 17-year-old is the daughter of Kathy Morales. Her stepdad is Tim Morales.

Randi says she started cooking when she was 3 or 4. She remembers always being in the kitchen with her mom when she was young.

Her aunt and grandma also were instrumental in showing her around the kitchen.

"I fell in love with cooking from day one," she said.

During the national competition, Randi will be competing against 35 other first-place winners representing other cities from around the nation.

The Best Teen Chef Final Round Competition is Saturday, May 15 at The Art Institute of Houston. Food Network is filming the event.

Randi is still working on what she will prepare for the national cook-off. She said she has tried some things, but it didn't work out as planned and was too salty. However, she is leaning toward an Asian menu with chicken.

For the Houston-area contest, there was a set menu: chicken, rice pilaf, and sautéed broccoli. "We had to make our own sauce for the chicken," she said, adding that she made a white wine and cream sauce with mushrooms, garlic, and Dijon mustard. She also made shrimp cocktail.



Robert E. Lee High School senior Randi Richards with the gold medal she was awarded after winning the title of Best Teen Chef 2010 for all of Houston.

If Richards wins the title of Best Teen Chef, she could earn a full-tuition scholarship toward a bachelor's degree, an associate's degree, certificate program or diploma program to study Culinary Arts at one of the more than 30 participating Art Institutes locations.

In addition to a full-tuition scholarship and the title of Best Teen Chef 2010, the national first place winner will be an "Intern for a Day" at Food Network Kitchens in New York City. The winner will also receive a tour of Food Network's studios, dinner for two at a Food Network chef's restaurant and a library of Food Network Kitchens cookbooks.

Randi's immediate goal, after winning the Chef competition of course, is earn a bachelor's degree in culinary management in three years. Then, she would like to become a Sous chef and open her own restaurant in Las Vegas or New York. Randi would ultimately like to be famous and have her own show on the Food Network.

The Art Institutes created the Best Teen Chef competition in 2000 to encourage and recognize young culinary talent.

For more info on the Best Teen Chef Competition, click [here](#).

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