



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Adriane De Ceuninck
MICHIGAN RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION
(517) 482-5244

MICHIGAN RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES RECIPE CONTEST WINNERS

LANSING, MI – The Michigan Restaurant Association is pleased to announce the winners of The Great Michigan Potato and The Great Michigan Pork Recipe Contests. Both contests were conducted as part of the Michigan Restaurant Show, which takes place each October in Novi and is the premier trade show in Michigan for the foodservice industry. The Great Michigan Potato Recipe Contest was sponsored by the Michigan Potato Industry Commission. The Great Michigan Pork Recipe Contest was sponsored by the Michigan Pork Producers Association.

The first place winner of The Great Michigan Potato Recipe Contest is Stacy Dixon with her Gluten Free Potato Lasagna. Dixon is a student at St. Joseph High School and participates in the ProStart® Program for culinary education. She took home a \$1,000 cash prize as well as 50 pounds of Michigan potatoes donated by Fresh Solutions Farms in White Pigeon.

The first place winner of The Great Michigan Pork Recipe Contest was Robert Stretch with his Coffee Encrusted Pork Tenderloin with Red Eye Gravy. Stretch works for Corporate Dining Concepts, located in Oakland County. He took home a \$1,000 cash prize as well as cooking utensils.

“There is a proven trend within the restaurant industry to utilize local ingredients,” said Brian DeBano, president and CEO of the Michigan Restaurant Association. “The contest is a fun way to bring attention to Michigan’s outstanding commodities.”

Recipe entries were prepared by the Capitol Area Career Center (Lansing) ProStart® Program culinary students. Each dish was then evaluated by several industry-experts, including representatives from the Michigan Potato Industry Commission, the Michigan Pork Producers Association, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, and the Michigan Restaurant Association.

Competition finalists were:

The Great Michigan Potato Recipe Contest

- Roasted Michigan Beers & Potato Salad, Robert Stretch, Corporate Dinning Concepts
- Apple Bacon Potato Salad, Liala Sawd, Liala’s Place
- Potato Muffins, Emily Roth, St Joseph High School

The Great Michigan Pork Recipe Contest

- BBQ Pork Cinnamon Rolls, Garry Boyd, Grand Rapids Brewing Company
- I am the Pork Tenderloin that Knocks, Jacob Kibler, Hopcat Grand Rapids
- Three P Polish Pulled Pork Sandwich, Betsy Lackey, Alchemy Bar & Grill

Each recipe can be viewed online at michiganrestaurantshow.org/events.html

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The Michigan Restaurant Association (MRA) is the recognized leader of Michigan’s hospitality industry, providing essential services to the foodservice community. Founded in 1921, the MRA represents more than 4,500 Michigan foodservice establishments. The industry plays an integral role in Michigan’s economy, employing nearly 400,000 people and creating nearly \$13.4 billion in annual sales.